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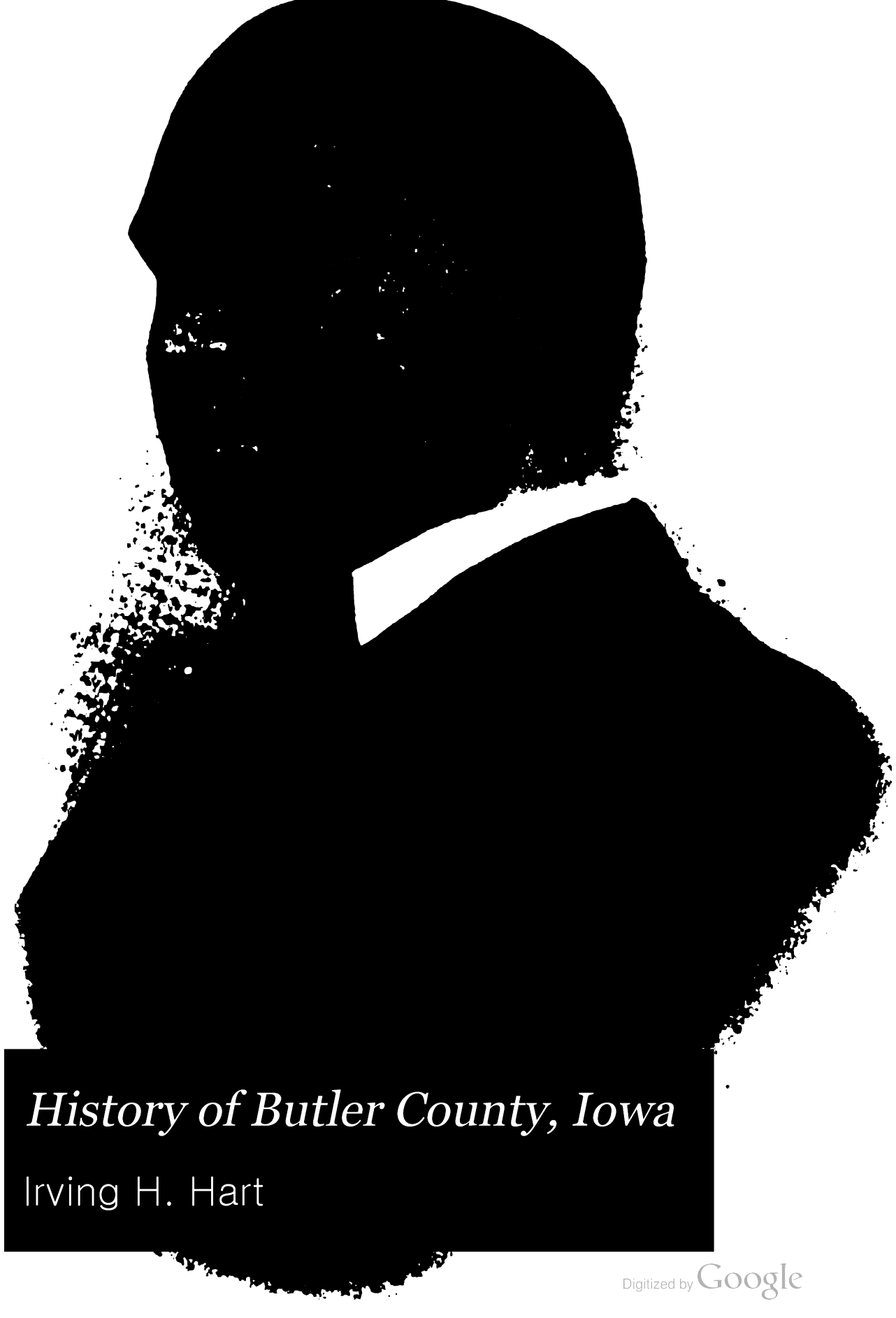
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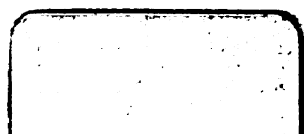
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*History of Butler County, Iowa*

Irving H. Hart



W.C.  
(Butler Co.)  
Hart









HISTORY OF  
BUTLER COUNTY  
IOWA

A Record of Settlement, Organization, Progress  
and Achievement

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By IRVING H. HART

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VOLUME II

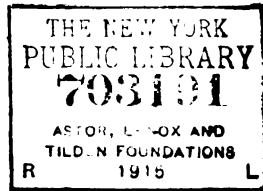
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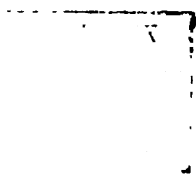
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**MILLARD F. EDWARDS**

# BIOGRAPHICAL

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## MILLARD FILLMORE EDWARDS.

Not only does the Hon. Millard Fillmore Edwards enjoy the distinction of occupying a foremost position in the legal fraternity of Butler county but has also prominently participated in public affairs, wherein his efforts have been an acknowledged factor in serving the public good. He has been a member of the state legislature, and in 1912 his talents again won him recognition, for he was elected to the position of judge of the district court of the twelfth judicial district. Upon the bench he has found new scope for his activities and knowledge and has gained wide recognition for his impartial administration of justice.

A native of Pennsylvania, Judge Edwards was born near Muncy, Lycoming county, October 22, 1858, a son of William and Catherine (Smole) Edwards, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. The father was born August 17, 1832, and after a successful career as a farmer and stock-raiser passed away March 7, 1897. The mother, whose date of birth was August 18, 1834, survived her husband about seven years, dying on the 23d of July, 1903. In their family were five children: Mary, who passed away in infancy; Millard Fillmore; Anna L., who was born January 23, 1861, and is the wife of J. S. Cranmer, now of South Williamsport, Pennsylvania; Lydia C., born July 20, 1863, now making her home in Montoursville, Pennsylvania; and Augustus E., who was born September 15, 1865, and is a resident of New York city. The Edwards family is of Welsh lineage, while the maternal ancestors of our subject came from Germany.

In the acquirement of his early education Judge Edwards attended public school and private normal school in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, and subsequently entered the Pennsylvania State Normal School at Millersville. In 1882 he graduated from the Central State Normal School at Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, his high standing in his class being evidenced in the fact that he was selected as one of the class orators for the commencement exercises. At intervals in the period in which he was acquir-



ing his education and for some time afterward he taught school in his native county, advancing steadily until he attained the position of principal of one of the graded schools. To perfect himself in practical knowledge he pursued during that period a course in a commercial college at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He came to Iowa for the first time in 1883 and upon his arrival in this state entered the law department of the State University in order to prepare himself for the legal profession, entering upon his studies with the same energy and zeal which had won him success in teaching. He was graduated in 1884, after which he returned to Pennsylvania, where he entered the law office of B. S. Bently, of Williamsport. A year later he returned to Iowa and in July, 1885, settled in Parkersburg, where he entered into partnership in the practice of law with the Hon. O. B. Courtright. This connection continued for little more than two years, when Mr. Edwards retired from the firm. In September, 1898, he was joined by Robert F. Camp and the law firm of Edwards & Camp was continued for ten years, or until 1908. Mr. Camp then retired from the firm, being succeeded by J. V. Gregory under the law firm style of Edwards & Gregory, which connection was maintained until 1910. Subsequent to that time Judge Edwards practiced alone and all through the years of his residence here up to the time of his elevation to the bench he was connected with much important litigation, handling some of the largest cases that have appeared before the courts. He occupies a most creditable and enviable position at the Butler county bar, due largely to the fact that he has always prepared his cases with great thoroughness and skill; that he is clear and forceful in argument, commanding at all times the attention of court or jury. He has gained many verdicts favorable to his clients, for his reasoning is logical, his deductions are sound and he is always prepared to meet the most unlooked-for exigencies in any suit. He was admitted to practice before the federal and state courts in Iowa City in 1884 and until January, 1913, when he was elevated to the bench, continued in the private practice of law with remarkable success.

In 1912 he was nominated and elected to the position of judge of the twelfth judicial district of Iowa and, although he has held this office a comparatively short time, has already established a reputation for impartiality which places him high among the representatives of the judiciary of the state. He has a thorough understanding of intricate legal problems and, being deeply im-

bued with a sense of the majesty of the law and the important functions of an ancient and noble profession, he discharges his duties with admirable and conscientious ability. His decisions are always based upon the letter of the law and are generally accepted by both sides as final. His long and distinguished career in private practice gained him the experience that greatly assists him in upholding the dignity of his office and he is not only highly respected in Parkersburg but throughout the entire twelfth judicial district, comprising Butler, Floyd, Bremer, Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Winnebago, Worth and Mitchell counties.

At Parkersburg, on the 21st of July, 1887, Judge Edwards was married to Miss Ida Whiting, a daughter of C. L. and Kate (Peterkin) Whiting, the former a well known and prominent contractor and builder who also was engaged in agricultural pursuits for some time. The parents now make their home in Snohomish, Washington. Judge and Mrs. Edwards have two daughters, Helen Catherine and Mildred Irene. The former is a graduate of Cornell College of Mount Vernon, Iowa, and received the Master of Arts degree from Chicago University in August, 1913. She is now connected with the high school at East Waterloo, Iowa, where she teaches Latin and English.

Judge Edwards gives his allegiance to the republican party and has always taken a most prominent part in public life. He served Parkersburg for two terms as mayor and during his administrations brought about many beneficial results. Interested in educational matters, he has served on the school board and was also for many years township clerk. In the greater politics of the state he has also participated, having been elected to the twenty-eighth general assembly in 1899. His ability was quickly recognized and he was made chairman of the house committee on telegraph, telephone and express and was a member of the committee on judiciary, railroads and commerce, and penitentiaries, judicial districts and police regulations. During this one term he attained such prominence that during that session he was made a member of the sifting committee toward the closing days of that legislature. He was reelected to the twenty-ninth general assembly, continuing his creditable record and doing much important work in committee rooms and on the floor of the house. In his religious faith Judge Edwards is a Methodist, being a member of that church in Parkersburg and serving as trustee and one of the stewards of the same. Fraternally he belongs to the Knights of Pythias. He owns his own residence,

and his home enjoys a reputation for the most kind-hearted hospitality. Judge Edwards has become recognized as a power for good in his town and county and has ever done his best to promote worthy public enterprises. He enjoys the utmost confidence and regard of his fellow citizens and his life record is an honor to the town and county which have honored him publicly and privately and which have found him capable in public positions of the greatest importance. Judge Edwards during the time of his residence in Butler county, has resided and now resides at Parkersburg.

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### LUCIUS FRANKLIN BRISTOL.

Lucius Franklin Bristol is a leading citizen of Shell Rock and Butler county. He conducts business as a contractor and builder and has thus been prominently identified with the work of public improvement. Formerly he was identified with mercantile interests and in all business relations has made a most creditable record. His position too as a citizen is one most commendable, for he has ever manifested a spirit of patriotism and loyalty and served as a soldier in the Civil war. He was born in Kenosha county, Wisconsin, June 17, 1843, and is a son of Lester S. and Anzolette (Cleland) Bristol. The father was born in Auburn, New York, in 1801, and the mother's birth occurred in Girard, Pennsylvania, July 17, 1814. In his boyhood days Lester S. Bristol worked on the construction of the state prison at Auburn, New York. He afterward learned the trade of carriage making, which he followed throughout the remainder of his days, being employed at different times in Charleston, South Carolina, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Syracuse, New York. He was married at Girard, Pennsylvania, after which he removed westward to Illinois and purchased eighty acres of land on the present site of Chicago. He resided thereon for one season and then sold the property for five hundred dollars. About 1840 he went to Kenosha county, Wisconsin, where he built a wagon shop and there worked at his trade for a long period. He died in Butler county, Iowa, in 1871, having long survived his wife, who passed away on the 4th of July, 1844. In their family were five children: Walter L. now lives in Cairo, Illinois. Edward C., who died in Seattle, Washington, in 1912, was for five years and eight months a soldier. He

enlisted in the Seventh Iowa Cavalry, served all through the Civil war and afterward participated in the military movement against the Indians. George L., who served for three years as a member of the Twenty-second Wisconsin Cavalry, died in Bristol, Wisconsin, in July, 1901. Sarah Adaline was married in 1862 to A. G. Stonebraker and died in 1864. L. F. Bristol completes the family.

The last named was reared in his native county, no event of special importance occurring to vary the routine of life for him until the outbreak of the Civil war, when his patriotic spirit was aroused and he joined the Second Wisconsin Cavalry, with which he served for eleven months. He was then honorably discharged but he reenlisted in the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, with which he remained until December, 1865. He was taken prisoner while detailed to guard the paymaster on a Mississippi river boat above Memphis in 1864. He was held a prisoner for five days, after which he managed to make his escape, although twenty men fired at him and many bullets pierced his clothing and hat. There were about twenty shots in the leg which he carries today. While he was in the service he had two horses shot from under him and again and again he was in the thickest of the fight, serving most of the time as a bugler of the Ninth Illinois Cavalry. When the war was over he returned to his home with the most creditable military record, having never been known to falter in the face of danger no matter how great his peril.

Returning to Sharon, Wisconsin, Mr. Bristol was a resident there until the spring of 1871, when he came to Shell Rock and here established a retail furniture and undertaking business, which he conducted for twenty years, winning a fair measure of success. He also manufactured furniture at the same time. He then went upon the road as traveling representative for wholesale furniture dealers and was also interested in a furniture manufactory. For the past four years, however, he has remained in Shell Rock, where he has engaged in contracting and building, devoting most of his time to the erection of houses, a number of which stand as monuments to his skill, ability and enterprise.

In Wisconsin, in 1867, Mr. Bristol was married to Miss Abbie L. Olmstead, who died in 1880, leaving two children: Edith, now the wife of W. E. Probert, of Cedar Falls; and Ella M., the wife of Arthur L. Dewey, of Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. Bristol's present wife was Mrs. Cynthia E. (Lewis) Sutherland, and they were married in 1893. Mrs. Bristol is a native of Jonesville, Michigan. For many years she held a position in the Chicago

postoffice, where she was known to be thoroughly trustworthy and competent. She has one son by her former marriage, Perley B. Sutherland, a resident of Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. Bristol has always given his political support to the republican party, which was the defense of the union during the dark days of the Civil war and has always been regarded as the party of reform and progress. He is well known as a member of Shell Rock Lodge No. 270, I. O. O. F., of which he was the first secretary, and he is also connected with the Rebekahs. He is likewise a member of the Grand Army Post and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. He enjoys reminiscences of the days when he followed the old flag on southern battlefields, and it is well known that he is as loyal to the stars and stripes at the present time as when he wore the nation's blue uniform. He is a popular, genial man who has many friends, and Shell Rock numbers him among its valued citizens.

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### WILLIAM H. MOORE.

Death called William H. Moore on the 11th of February, 1913, and in his passing Clarksville and the community mourned the loss of a representative and valued citizen. He had long been identified with agricultural interests and the way in which he managed his business affairs made one recognize the fact that the wealth of Iowa is in her soil and her strength lies in its intelligent development. Mr. Moore was born in Schoharie county, New York, March 14, 1840, and was a son of John and Alonsa (Turner) Moore, who spent their entire lives upon a farm in the Empire state. The paternal grandfather was a native of Holland and became the founder of the family in the new world. John Moore was married twice, his first union being with Betsy Wickes, by whom he had three children, while by the second marriage there were five children. John Madison Moore, a brother of William H. Moore, became a resident of Butler county, as did his half-sister, Mrs. Margaret Snyder.

William H. Moore engaged in teaching school in New York and Wisconsin in early manhood and also followed the same profession in Butler county. Leaving the Empire state in 1861, he removed westward to Wisconsin and was there residing when in 1865 he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting in the



*W. H. Moore*

HARRIS COUNTY

strongly to sit with me and  
my dear people, Peter, M.  
and M.

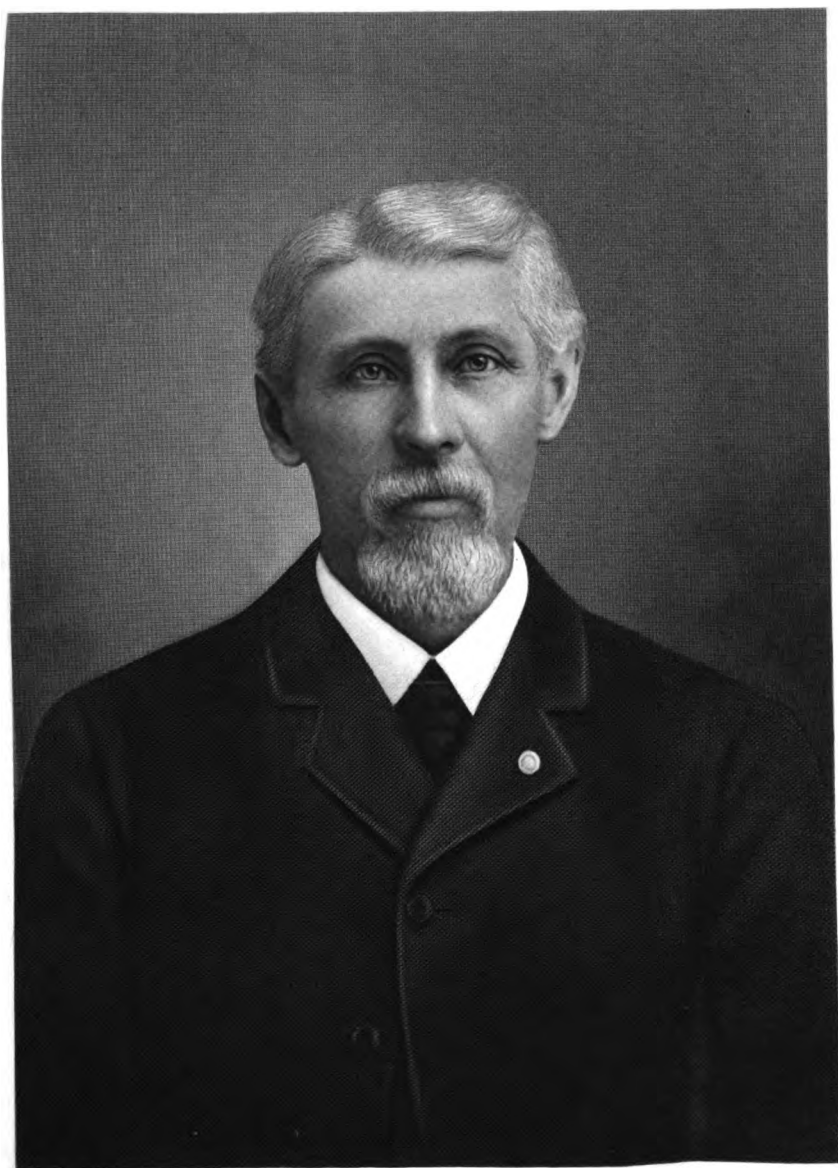
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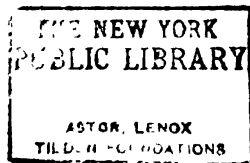
... followed the same pattern as the other states in the region. The number of cases were recorded in the following table:





*W H Moore*





Forty-sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he served as a private for eight months, being on duty in Tennessee and northern Georgia. In 1866 he arrived in this county and purchased land in Butler township, where he devoted the remainder of his active life to general farming. He had three hundred and twenty acres in his home place and although he began farming here on a small scale he was very successful, his labors being crowned with substantial prosperity as the years went by. At length he was in possession of a handsome competence sufficient to supply him with all of the comforts of life through his remaining days and at his death he left to his family a goodly competence. He retired to Clarksville in the fall of 1908 and there remained in the enjoyment of a well earned rest until called to his final home on the 11th of February, 1913.

It was on the 17th of November, 1867, that Mr. Moore was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann Perrin, who was born in Pennsylvania, October 20, 1847, and in the fall of 1851 came to Butler county with her parents, Jeremiah and Elizabeth (Scarber) Perrin, who were natives of England and after their marriage crossed the Atlantic to the United States, settling in Pennsylvania. Ultimately they removed to the west and both died in Butler county, Iowa, the mother in 1865 and the father on the 26th of September, 1903. He was a farmer throughout his active business life and in his later years he also became interested in banking and was accounted one of the prominent business men of this section of the state. Since coming to Iowa with her parents in 1851 Mrs. Moore has continuously resided in this county save the second year after her marriage, when with her husband she returned to Schoharie county, New York. About a year later, however, they again came to Iowa, where she has since lived and now for more than six decades she has been a witness of the growth and development of this section of the state. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Moore were born six children: Ellena, at home; Delmar J., who is a member of the Waterloo Auto Supply Company at Waterloo, Iowa; Lizzie, the wife of H. V. Chapin, of Red Bluff, California; Anna Perrin, the wife of J. L. Carr, of West Plains, Missouri; Arthur Garfield, who is operating the home farm east of Clarksville; and Alpha Retta, with her mother. All of the children were born in Butler county.

Mr. Moore was one of the valued representatives of the Grand Army of the Republic and delighted in meeting with his old army comrades. In politics he was a republican from the time that age

conferred upon him the right of franchise, and he held a number of offices, the duties of which he acceptably discharged. During the last nineteen years of his life he was a member of the Christian church and for many years was a member and president of the church board being also an elder of the church, and his daily record was in harmony with his professions. His religion was not merely a matter of Sunday observance but guided him in all of his relations with his fellowmen and made him a citizen whom to know was to respect and honor.

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### FRED L. STOBER.

Fred L. Stober, well known in financial circles of Butler county, is cashier of the First State Bank of Greene. It was in the town of Greene that he was born July 11, 1877, a son of Louis J. Stober, who came with his parents from Germany to America during his childhood days. The family home was established in Freeport, Illinois, where he grew to manhood. In 1876, at Bloomington, Illinois, Louis J. Stober married Miss Fredericka Koehn, who was also a native of Germany and was about eighteen years of age when she became a resident of Illinois. It was in Freeport, that state, that Louis J. Stober learned the harness-maker's trade, which he followed continuously until 1876. The same year he removed westward to Iowa, settling in Greene, where he established a harness shop, engaging in active business in this city for thirty-five years thereafter. In 1912 he disposed of the shop and since that time has lived retired, enjoying a well earned and well merited rest. He and his wife became the parents of three sons: Fred L., of this review; Dr. Alvin M., a successful medical practitioner in Chicago; and Dr. Ray W., a well known physician of Freeport, Illinois.

Fred L. Stober was reared at home and acquired his education in the public schools of Greene. After completing the high-school course he accepted a position in the First State Bank in January, 1895, beginning in a humble capacity, from which he rose rapidly. Soon after he became connected with the institution he was made bookkeeper, and he served as such until January, 1903, when he was elected cashier. He has since remained in this position and has established himself firmly in the public regard as one of the leading and reliable financiers of the county. He is a stockholder in the bank and is a director in the Electric

Light & Power Company, which he aided in promoting, and he is held in high regard by his business associates.

In Greene, on the 29th of November, 1900, Mr. Stober was united in marriage to Miss May M. Mason, who was born in Clyde, Ohio, and is a daughter of N. B. and Elizabeth (Carlton) Mason. Mr. Mason is a native of New York and Mrs. Mason a native of Ohio. He is a veteran of the Civil war and at one time was sheriff of Sandusky county, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Stober have three children, Fred Mason, Maude E., and Louis James.

Mr. Stober is a Master Mason and is identified also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In the local organizations of both he has been active and is a past grand in the Odd Fellows lodge. His wife is connected with both the Rebekahs and the Order of the Eastern Star.

Politically Mr. Stober gives his allegiance to the republican party and he has filled several important positions of trust and responsibility. He served for a number of years as town clerk and since 1910 has been clerk of Coldwater township. He has also been secretary of the school board and secretary of the Greene Library Association. His public spirit has prompted him to activity along many lines which have been of direct benefit to his community and at the same time he is a representative business man, carefully managing his individual affairs so that he is winning good results for his family.

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### JOHN F. MOTT.

The official record of John F. Mott is creditable alike to himself and his constituents and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen is best indicated in the fact that he is now serving for the third term as mayor of Clarksville. Abraham Lincoln has said: "You can fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time," and when a man has been again and again called to public office it is unmistakable proof of the fact that his fellow townsmen recognize in him the qualities of an efficient officer and one who is conscientious in the discharge of his duties. As chief executive Mr. Mott has given to his city a businesslike and progressive administration characterized by progress and needed reforms. A native of Livingston county,

New York, he was born August 1, 1844, of the marriage of Bethuel and Eliza (Grovesteen) Mott, who were also natives of the Empire state and there spent their entire lives. The father was of English descent, while the mother came of German lineage, and both come of old New York families represented in the state for several generations. He became a paper manufacturer and conducted the business until death ended his labors.

John F. Mott was the oldest of eleven children, three of whom are now deceased. One of the number, Alonzo Mott, now living in Clarksville, enlisted for service in the Civil war in 1863 as a member of Company J, One Hundred and Fifty-third New York Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of hostilities under General Banks. When John F. Mott was five years of age his parents removed with their family to Esperance, Schoharie county, New York. When he was a youth of fifteen he left home and went to Montgomery county, that state, to which county his parents subsequently removed, spending their last days in Amsterdam.

It was in Montgomery county, in 1863, that John F. Mott was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Leonardson, who was born in Canajoharie, New York. In November, 1865, they went to Toledo, Ohio, and in 1871 became residents of Monroe county, Missouri, whence in 1873 they came to Iowa, traveling by prairie schooner to Bremer county, where they located on a farm near the Butler county line. There Mr. Mott carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1881, when he purchased a farm on section 24, Butler county. He continued its further cultivation and development for some time but in September, 1894, removed to Clarksville, where he was engaged in the live-stock business and where he has since made his home. For a few years in early life he worked with his father in the paper mill but the greater part of his life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. About ten years ago he purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land in Mower county, Minnesota, but sold it in the fall of 1912. He was engaged in the live-stock business in Clarksville for twelve years, buying, selling and shipping stock, but in 1902 withdrew from that activity upon being elected to public office.

It was on that date that Mr. Mott was chosen county supervisor, in which position he served for two terms or six years, making a creditable record in that connection. He has always been a stalwart republican in politics and upon the party ticket has been elected to a number of local offices. For some years he

served as assessor and trustee of Butler township and he was elected a member of the city council of Clarksville before being first elected to the position of mayor, in which he is now serving, for the third term of two years. He has ever exercised his official prerogatives in support of measures and movements for the general good and his official record is indeed commendable. He has also been a member of the county central committee and his opinions carry weight in republican circles.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Mott were born three children: Ada, the wife of Grant A. Gibson, of Valley Ford, Washington; Charles, who is living in Dexter, Minnesota; and Elmer J., of Raymond, South Dakota. The two oldest are natives of New York and the youngest of Missouri. Mr. Mott is a Mason, belonging to Butler Lodge, No. 94, F. & A. M., and also to Temple Chapter, No. 74, R. A. M. He and his wife have an extensive circle of warm friends in Clarksville and throughout the county and he is justly numbered among the representative citizens of his section of the state.

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### WINFRED C. SHEPARD.

Winfred C. Shepard is numbered among the native sons of Butler county, whose record reflects credit and honor upon the place of his nativity. Making good use of his time and opportunities, he has gained for himself a creditable position as a member of the bar and as president of the Craig-Ray Abstract Company, Incorporated, of Allison. He was born in Clarksville, January 25, 1879, a son of A. D. and Alice (Sill) Shepard. The father was born in Vermont, December 2, 1852, and at the age of fourteen years came to this county to live with an uncle, Benjamin Priest, for his mother had died when he was very young and his father Ernest Dexter Shepard had died during the Civil war. A. D. Shepard has since lived in Butler county and now makes his home on a farm near Clarksville, being one of the worthy and respected representatives of agricultural pursuits in this section of the state. In her early girlhood his wife accompanied her parents on their removal from New York to Wisconsin. Later her father came to Iowa and secured government land in Jackson township, Butler county, to which the family removed. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. George Sill, the mother's maiden name being Cooper. Both are now deceased. Mrs. Sill passed

away on the farm, on which they first located and Mr. Sill died later at his home southeast of Clarksville. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Shepard were seven sons and three daughters, all of whom survived.

Winfred C. Shepard has spent his entire life in Butler county, remaining on the farm with his father until seventeen years of age. He attended the country schools and the Clarksville high school, from which he was graduated with the class of 1897. Later he was for two years a student in Cornell college at Mount Vernon, Iowa, and in 1905 was graduated from the law department of Drake University. Having thus qualified for a professional career he returned to Allison, where he has since engaged in practice, being now recognized as one of the able young members of the bar. He prepares his cases with thoroughness and skill and in addition to a gratifying private practice, he is acting as local attorney for the Chicago & Great Western and the Chicago & Northwestern Railroads. He is also president of the Craig-Ray Abstract Company, Incorporated, of Allison.

On the 1st of May, 1909, Mr. Shepard was married to Miss Addie E. Loomer, a native of this county and a daughter of Phillip Loomer of Clarksville. They have had one child, Virgil Eugene. The parents are members of the Methodist church and Mr. Shepard is a republican. He served for one term as mayor of Allison and is the present city clerk. He has been a delegate to various political conventions and is deeply interested in all the vital questions pertaining to good government, municipal, state or national. In fact he is an alert, wide-awake, energetic man, who keeps abreast with the times and his worth as a citizen is widely acknowledged, while his position in professional circles is one of growing importance.

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### MOULTON HARTNESS.

Of that class of public-spirited and progressive citizens upon which the security of any community rests, is Moulton Hartness, who for the past twenty-one years has practiced law in Greene, winning in the interval a remarkable and well deserved professional success. He was born in Butler county, near Clarksville, October 15, 1859, a son of George and Susan (Bonwell) Hartness, the former born in Virginia about 1835. He came west with his parents when he was still a child and located in Indiana, where he

grew to manhood. In 1855 he came as a pioneer into Iowa, locating in Butler county, where he resided for many years. He and his wife became the parents of three children: Moulton, of this review; John; and Eleanor E., who resides in Clarksville with her mother.

Moulton Hartness remained upon the home farm until he was eighteen years of age, acquiring his primary education in the country school and supplementing this by a course in the Clarksville high school. After graduating from that institute he attended business college in Keokuk and he later studied law under Captain C. A. L. Roszelle, a prominent attorney. Mr. Hartness was admitted to the Iowa bar at Des Moines in 1890. He had previously located in Greene, where he held a position in the First State Bank, retaining this for a time after his admission. He resigned it however, in 1892, and opened a law office in the First State Bank building and since that time has been one of the active and prominent members of the legal fraternity, of Butler county. He possesses a comprehensive and exact knowledge of underlying legal principles and a clear and analytical mind, and these qualifications have won him distinction in a profession where advancement comes only as a result of superior merit and ability. Mr. Hartness has accumulated an excellent law library, one of the largest and most complete in the county and he has remained always a close and earnest student of his profession.

At Mount Pleasant, Iowa, November 28, 1889, Mr. Hartness married Miss Venia E. Tracy, a native of Ohio, who was reared and educated in Iowa. She is a graduate of the Mount Pleasant high school and for some years engaged in teaching. Mr. and Mrs. Hartness became the parents of two sons: Moulton, Jr., a graduate of the Ellsworth School of Stenography, who for a time read law in his father's office, and is now a student in the law department of the Iowa State University; and Joseph G., a graduate of the Greene high school and now a student at Grinnell college.

Fraternally, Mr. Hartness is identified with the blue lodge Masons, of which he is lodge master, and he is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Hartness is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, president of the Ladies' Aid Society and also a member of the Home Mission Society. Mr. Hartness gives his political allegiance to the republican party and although he has never desired office for himself has always taken a prominent part in public affairs. The cause of education has found in him a loyal champion, for he has accomplished a great deal of important work



along this line during his twenty years on the school board, for the past fifteen years of which he has served as president. His cooperation can always be counted upon in the promotion of public enterprises, which have for their object, community advancement and growth. He was one of the promoters of the Electric Light & Power Company, in which he is still a stockholder and director. He is a man of more than ordinary ability and the position which he occupies in social, political and professional circles is the fit reward of a life of well directed energy and straightforward dealings.

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### HON. WILLIAM I. ATKINSON.

The consensus of public opinion accords Hon. William I. Atkinson a prominent position in public regard. Attacks have been made upon him but they have been of a partisan nature and none questioned the integrity of his motives or the honesty of his position. It is said that no man in Butler county has a wider personal acquaintance and perhaps none has a larger circle of friends. Faith in him was strongly expressed in the election of November, 1912, when he was chosen to represent his district in the state legislature, being the first native son that Butler county has sent to the general assembly. He was born in Clarksville, March 17, 1876, his parents being Henry and Sophia Atkinson, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. He was thirteen years of age when his father died at which time he left the farm. He was the youngest of seven children, but at an early age he realized the importance of acquiring an education and he spared no labor that would bring about this end. While attending high school the vacation months were devoted to farm work and later he taught school, whereby he was enabled to continue his own studies. His early teaching experience was in the rural schools of Butler county and subsequently he was engaged as assistant principal of the schools of Clarksville. He was also at one time principal of the school at Ridgeway, Winneshiek county, Iowa. He worked his way through three years at the Upper Iowa University of Fayette and next entered the State University, where he devoted a year to the study of history and political science before entering the law college from which he was graduated in 1906. He was then admitted to the bar, but has never engaged actively in practice. The elemental strength of his char-



HON. WILLIAM I. ATKINSON



acter is displayed in the resolute way in which he obtained an education in the face of difficulties and obstacles, which would have utterly deterred many a young man of less resolute spirit and laudable ambition. While in college he became greatly interested in the lyceum business and following his graduation from the law department he gave his entire attention to lyceum work, which developed to large proportions and won him promotion from the position of agent to that of district manager for the Mutual Lyceum Bureau of Chicago, his territory comprising Iowa, South Dakota and southern Minnesota. He managed the interests of the bureau with such keen insight and capability that he won the commendation and approval not only of the home office, but of all those for whose interests he cared in connection with public entertainments. In September, 1913, at the convention in Chicago, Mr. Atkinson was elected vice president of the International Lyceum Association.

Mr. Atkinson was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Patti Maxon, a talented reader of Brooklyn, New York, who died in 1909. He has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintances and they reach far beyond the limits of Butler county, for he is now widely known in this and adjoining states. In Masonry he has attained the Knight Templar degree and is also a member of El Kahir Temple of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In politics he has ever been a stalwart republican and following the suggestion of many friends he at length announced himself as a candidate for the position of general assemblyman from Butler county. His election followed and during his first session he was given a chairmanship—an unusual honor—being placed at the head of the committee of the college for the blind. He is also a member of the committees on state educational institutions, normal schools, roads and highways, public health, schools and text books, enrolled bills, appropriations and soldiers' and orphans' homes. He is greatly interested in legislation affecting schools and public health. He has studied the interests of humanity rather than material things and he strongly opposed the proposed change made by the state board of education in state schools and has been an unfaltering advocate for better rural schools. Speaking of his business career a contemporary biographer has written, "The story of his rise from an agent to the district manager for the Mutual Lyceum Bureau, handling the territory embraced in his own state, South Dakota and southern

Minnesota, is an inspiration to the many thousands who have since looked to him for their higher, nobler amusements; their purposeful, profitable, mental and moral uplift, and those musical and literary treats that have turned thousands of dreary evenings into a joy forever. The lyceum and the chautauqua have been the greatest liberalizers in religion, politics and business, more so than any other institution extant. That is why Iowa appreciates William and looks to him as a candidate who will represent the state as well as Butler county. On March the 8th, 1912, William I. Atkinson of Clarksville, was elected a member of the State Historical Society in recognition of his work in that line. This is an honor that comes only by invitation. Here I have not said a thing about those traits of character, those tests of manhood's real worth that are revealed only to those who know the inward workings of our lives. I will simply say that God only makes a few men who always ring true and fortunate indeed is he who enjoys the friendship of one of these."

Such a one is William I. Atkinson, whose splendid physique is but the expression of a still broader, stronger and more stalwart nature. With him life is real and earnest and he attacks each duty with a contagious enthusiasm that produces gratifying results.

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#### V. C. BIRNEY, M. D.

Dr. V. C. Birney, the oldest medical practitioner in Butler county, dates his residence in Greene from 1872 and since that time has become established as one of the leading and prominent physicians and surgeons in this section of the state. He was born in Ontario, Canada, November 1, 1849, a son of Dr. Lewis and Mary (Ferris) Birney, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Canada. The father grew to manhood in his native community and later moved to Toronto, Ontario, where he studied medicine. After receiving his degree he moved to the States, locating in Floyd county, this state, in 1856. He engaged in general practice there for many years, afterward moving to Nora Springs, where he spent his declining years, his death occurring about 1908. His wife survives him and is still hale and hearty at the age of eighty-eight.

Dr. V. C. Birney came to Iowa with his parents when he was but a child and he grew to manhood in Floyd county, acquiring

his primary education in the public schools. He supplemented this by two years at Osage Academy. From his boyhood he had studied medicine under his father and before he was twenty-one he became thoroughly familiar with the basic principles of the science. He took his first course of lectures at Rush Medical College in Chicago but he completed his studies at Keokuk, receiving his degree of M. D. in 1878. Prior to receiving his degree he practiced with his father for a short time and then in March, 1872, located in Greene, where he has since remained in practice. He is without doubt the oldest physician in Butler and adjacent counties and his broad and varied experience is one of his greatest assets. He has, however, kept in touch with the most advanced thought of his profession, supplementing his early training by special courses in medicine and surgery and by constant reading, research and investigation. He is a prominent surgeon, having performed many difficult operations most successfully, and his practice is large and important—the result of forty-one years of earnest, conscientious and disinterested work. Dr. Birney is a member of the Butler County, the Austin Flint and the Cedar Valley Medical Societies and in this way keeps in touch with the most advanced medical thought. He has remained always a close and earnest student of his profession and has a fine medical library of which he makes constant use. He has prepared and presented articles before the medical societies to which he belongs and is a recognized authority upon many branches of his profession. In the course of time he has secured a comfortable fortune and he today controls valuable property interests in Greene, owning an attractive residence on the west side of the river and a large business house, in which he has his office, where he carries a large stock of drugs and medicines for use in his own practice.

Dr. Birney has been twice married and has two children by his first wife: Nellie, who married Frank Ellis, of Los Angeles, California, and Dr. V. C., Jr., who is practicing medicine in Portland, Oregon. In Mason City, in 1897, Dr. Birney married Miss Ida H. Hartz, who was born in Wisconsin but reared in Iowa. Dr. and Mrs. Birney have become the parents of a daughter, Varillas Helen.

Dr. Birney gives his political allegiance to the republican party and served for six years as county coroner and for a number of years as pension examiner and member of the board of health. He is active in Masonic circles, holding membership in the blue lodge

at Greene, the chapter at Clarksville, the commandery at Charles City and the shrine at Cedar Rapids. He has served through all of the chairs and is past grand of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which he represented in the Grand Lodge of Iowa. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. A residence of forty-one years in Greene has gained for him the respect and confidence of all who have had professional, social or business relations with him.

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### COLONEL HOUSTON GREEN.

Colonel Houston Green, who was one of the veterans of the Civil war, came to Butler county soon after the close of hostilities and here resided until his death, which occurred March 25, 1907. He reached the Psalmist's span of life of three score years and ten, for his birth occurred in Claiborne county, Tennessee, January 16, 1837, his parents being John and Orpha (Slatten) Green, who were natives of North Carolina and South Carolina respectively. Their last days, however, were spent in Scott county, Kentucky, where Mr. Green followed the occupation of farming, which he made his life work. He was a soldier of the War of 1812. Four of the Green brothers married four sisters of the Slatten family, and each had eleven children. Unto John Green and his wife were born six sons and five daughters, Houston Green being the youngest son. He and four of his brothers served as soldiers in the Civil war, two enlisting from Illinois, while three became members of the Kentucky regiments. Colonel Houston Green was a young man of twenty-four years at the time of the outbreak of hostilities. His patriotic spirit aroused, he joined the Fourth Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for two years and three months and was then honorably discharged on account of disability. Throughout the remainder of his life he was in delicate health. After his military experience he resided in Indiana and Illinois until he came to Butler county, Iowa, in April, 1866, settling in Shell Rock township, where his remaining days were passed, covering about forty-one years. He always followed farming and prospered in his undertakings, owning at one time four hundred and twenty acres of rich and valuable land, which was divided among his children. He displayed unfaltering industry and determination in carrying on

his farm work and contributed much to the progress of the county along agricultural lines. He set an excellent example to others in progressive methods of farming, and his place became one of the attractive features of the landscape.

On the 11th of March, 1861, Colonel Green was married to Miss Susan E. Bassett, who was born in Owen county, Kentucky, October 2, 1844, a daughter of Luke and Janette (Wilson) Bassett. The father was of German parentage, and the mother was a native of Kentucky, born August 24, 1823. His birth occurred on the 11th of February, 1811, and throughout his entire life he followed the occupation of farming, thus providing for his family, which numbered eight children, four sons and four daughters who reached years of maturity. The parents both passed away in Kentucky, the father on the 1st of September, 1880, and the mother on the 26th of March, 1888. To Colonel and Mrs. Green were born eight children: William Albert and Janetta, both of whom died in infancy; Amanda, who owns and is operating a farm in Shell Rock township; Mason, living in Marengo, Iowa; Nellie, who died at the age of four years; Adelbert, of Shell Rock township; George, who resides with his mother on the old home place, now comprising one hundred and sixty acres, and Edward, also living in Shell Rock township.

Mrs. Green is a member of the Christian church, which she joined in Bement, Illinois. She has ever been a devoted wife and loving mother, giving to her children every possible attention and care. Colonel Green was also most devoted to his family, and they mourned the loss of a loving husband and father when he passed away on the 25th of March, 1907. He was a staunch republican in his political views and filled some minor offices, the duties of which he discharged with promptness and fidelity. He belonged to the Shell Rock lodge, A. F. & A. M., and exemplified in his life the beneficent spirit of the craft, which is based upon mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness.

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### J. L. SCRIPTURE, M. D.

Dr. J. L. Scripture, successfully engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Clarksville, his wide knowledge, skill and ability being recognized by his many patients, was born in Dubuque, Iowa, March 13, 1870, and is a son of Calvin and Nancy



(Strohl) Scripture. The father's birth occurred near Lockport, New York, in 1826 and when fourteen years of age he came to Iowa with his parents, who located at Dubuque when that city contained but two or three houses. Calvin Scripture operated a threshing machine for thirty years and then located on a farm three miles west of Clarksville. He married Nancy Strohl, who was born in Sandusky, Ohio, December 17, 1832, and who was brought to Iowa by her parents about 1842, the family home being established on a farm in Julian township, Dubuque county. They were married in that county and there the death of Mrs. Scripture occurred in February, 1896, while Mr. Scripture survived only until the following July. In the early days he secured his land from the government and he and his wife spent their entire married life upon the farm which he developed and improved. Both were active and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church, never missing prayer meeting or any church service unless ill health forced them to remain away. They lived upright, godly lives and their influence was of far-reaching benefit among friends and neighbors.

Dr. Scripture was the seventh in order of birth in a family of eight children, of whom two are now living, a sister, Carrie, making her home with the brother. Under the parental roof Dr. Scripture continued until 1886, when he went away to school, entering the Epworth Seminary, Epworth, Iowa. He attended only through the winter terms and completed his course in 1894. In that year he entered the medical department of the State University and was graduated therefrom in 1897. In the same year he opened an office and began practice in Clarksville, where he remained for two and one-half years, after which he pursued a post-graduate course in New York city. He then located in Cresco, Howard county, Iowa, where he remained for ten years, but in 1909 returned to Clarksville, where he has since engaged in general practice. He has always been a close student of his profession and by wide reading, research and investigation as well as by post-graduate courses has kept in touch with the advancement of the profession. He is also a member of the County and State Medical Societies, and the American Medical Association and in all of his practice he holds to the highest standards of professional ethics.

In 1899 Dr. Scripture was married to Miss Nellie E. Davis, a native of Clarksville and a daughter of M. S. and Minnie (Millen) Davis. They have one son, James Cyril. Dr. Scripture has served on the executive committee of the Driving Park Association and has been a member of the board of health of his town. In politics

he is a progressive and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. Fraternally he is a prominent Mason, having served as worshipful master of Butler Lodge, No. 94, A. F. & A. M., and as high priest of Temple Chapter, No. 74, R. A. M. He also belongs to Waterloo Council, R. & S. M., and to the Knight Templar Commandery at Cedar Falls. A liberal education qualified him for his professional duties and in that regard he has made a creditable record by his success in practice. At the same time he has never been neglectful of his duties of citizenship and Clarksville has benefited in many ways by his efforts in her behalf.

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### SCHUYLER HARDMAN.

Butler county numbers among its most progressive and representative agriculturists and among its best known native sons Schuyler Hardman, who owns and operates a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 16, Dayton township, as well as another forty acre tract in the vicinity. He was born in Coldwater township, March 10, 1859, and is a son of Aaron Hardman, a native of Antrim county, Michigan. The father grew to maturity there and married Miss Christiann Lentz, a native of South Bend, Indiana. After their marriage the parents moved west to Iowa, locating in Butler county about the year 1853. The father purchased land south of Greene and this he improved and operated for many years, becoming a substantial and prominent farmer. He later retired from active life and moved into Greene, where his death occurred about the year 1878. His wife survived him a number of years, dying in Greene in 1908. After the death of her first husband she wedded John V. Boggs, of Greene.

Schuyler Hardman is one of a family of nine children. He was reared upon his father's farm in Coldwater township and acquired his education in the district schools. In 1884 he married Miss Castinah Shannon, who was born in Clarksville, Butler county, in 1860, a daughter of John Shannon, a pioneer settler in Butler county, who came here in 1856. After his marriage Mr. Hardman located on the Shannon farm, near Clarksville, renting this property for sixteen years thereafter. During that time he purchased an eighty acre tract on section 16, Dayton township, and carried on the work of improvement along modern and progressive lines. In 1900 he moved upon this property and in that

year bought an adjoining tract of eighty acres, his holdings now comprising one hundred and sixty acres. Upon this place he has erected a two-story residence, a large barn, granary and hoghouse and has made other improvements, setting out a large orchard and a grove of evergreen and native forest trees. His fields are fenced and crossfenced with woven and barbed wire and everything about the place is kept in excellent condition, the property reflecting the careful supervision and practical labor which the owner bestows upon it. Mr. Hardman owns another forty acre tract also in Dayton township. He raises high-grade shorthorn cattle, Percheron horses and Duroc Jersey hogs and is recognized as one of the most successful stock-raisers in this locality.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardman became the parents of three sons and four daughters, of whom six are living: Aaron, who is engaged in the grain business in Canada; Royal, a student in the Greene high school; Alberta, who was educated at Clarksville and at Cedar Falls and who is now principal of the grammar schools at Livingston, Montana; Adelle, who is the wife of C. H. Schader and makes her home at Sunnyside, Washington; LaVerne, a student in the Greene high school; and Thelma, who is also pursuing her studies. Mr. and Mrs. Hardman lost one son, Earl, who died at the age of seven. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Packard and Mrs. Hardman is serving as superintendent of the Sabbath school. She is also a member of the Daughters of Rebekah.

Mr. Hardman is identified with Elm Springs Lodge, No. 318, I. O. O. F., and is a republican in his political beliefs. He is interested in the cause of education and has served as school director. His many excellent qualities of mind and character have gained him the esteem and good-will of all with whom he has come in contact, while his progressive and practical methods in the cultivation of his farm have won him rank with the representative agriculturists of this locality.

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### J. M. RAMSEY.

J. M. Ramsey is editor of the Clarksville Star and well known as a leading representative of journalistic interests in his section of the state. He holds to high standards in newspaper publication, following none of the methods of "yellow journalism," and



J. M. RAMSEY



since purchasing the Star in 1909 its circulation and advertising patronage have steadily increased.

Mr. Ramsey was born near Clarksville in one of the old-time log cabins, February 25, 1869, his parents being Charles and Margaret (Gabby) Ramsey, who were natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Harrisburg in 1836 and the latter in Washington county in 1841. They were reared in the Keystone state but were married near West Union, in Adams county, Ohio. In 1861 they came to Iowa, settling a mile north of Clarksville. The mother departed this life in 1893, while the father survived for a decade. He took an active interest in politics as a supporter of the democratic party and held many local offices. His religious faith was that of the Presbyterian church and to its teachings he was ever loyal. His life work was that of farming, which he conducted on an extensive scale until after the death of his wife. He first came to this county in 1857 but afterward returned to Ohio and brought his family in 1861. He had removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio with his parents when fourteen years of age and resided in the latter state until he sought a home in Iowa. Here he began farming and operated large tracts of land. In 1878 he had nearly six hundred acres planted to wheat but the crop failed and he lost heavily. An epidemic of diphtheria also raged in that year and two of the children, George and Ida, died of the disease and were interred in the Lynwood cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ramsey were born eight children, of whom two died in infancy, while three are now living: Janette, the wife of J. L. Caskey, of Akron, Iowa; Charles, of Minnesota; and J. M. Ramsey.

The last named has been a lifelong resident of Butler county. He pursued his early education in the public schools of Clarksville and of Greene and later became a student at Cedar Rapids. He spent the year 1904 in Mexico but the remainder of his life has been passed in this county, his boyhood and youth being spent upon the home farm, where he early became familiar with all of the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. In 1890 he entered the Star office and has since been identified with the paper which he purchased in 1909, becoming sole owner and editor. For twenty-three years he has been a newspaper man and is familiar with every phase of newspaper publication both along mechanical lines and in the assembling of news items and the writing of editorials. He publishes his paper in behalf of local welfare and has made it a clean, attractive and readable journal which is now liberally patronized.

On the 30th of September, 1893, Mr. Ramsey married Miss Della Shafer, who was born in this county and is a daughter of W. R. Shafer, of Clarksville. They now have two children, Edna Georgia and Alice Lavon. Mr. Ramsey belongs to the Knights of Pythias and is a member of the state lodge. In politics he is a republican, influential in party councils. He has served on various occasions as a delegate to the county, district and state conventions and has occupied a number of official positions. For twelve years he was assessor of the city and for five years was recorder of Clarksville. On the 1st of July, 1913, he was appointed assistant state game warden, which position he is now filling. His record in connection with public office is a creditable one, for he has always been loyal and prompt in the discharge of his duties. His public spirit had been manifest in many connections, not the least being through the columns of his paper, in which he always champions every measure and movement for the general good.

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#### CLARK CARR.

Agricultural pursuits have long had a worthy representative in Clark Carr, whose home farm of eighty acres is situated on section 12, Jackson township, about a mile and three-quarters west of Clarksville, on the Shell Rock river. Here he has lived since the 5th of September, 1868, and the county knows him as one of the worthy representatives of agricultural life—industrious, honorable and persistent in all that he has undertaken. He was born September 8, 1844, in Bennington county, Vermont, his parents being C. R. and Rhoda (Brown) Carr. The father was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, February 19, 1811, and the mother in Rutland county, Vermont, February 26, 1811. They became residents of McHenry county, Illinois, in 1845 and after twenty-one years there passed removed to Butler county in September, 1866, spending their last days in Jackson township. The father followed the trades of a carpenter and stone mason until he came to Iowa, after which he followed farming. Both he and his wife were members of the Baptist church in early life but as there was no congregation of that denomination near their home in Iowa they united with the Methodist Episcopal church. Christian principles actuated them in all that they did and their good deeds made their example one well worthy of emulation. The father died Feb-

ruary 2, 1888, and the mother, surviving for more than a decade, passed away December 26, 1898. They were the parents of four children beside our subject: Julia, the wife of George Smith, of Jackson township; Mrs. Mary Rogers, who died in Clarksville; Mrs. Lucinda Olson, of Junction City, Kansas; and Mrs. Lucina Poisal, deceased. Mrs. Olson and Mrs. Poisal were twins.

In taking up the personal history of Clark Carr we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in this county, where he has now lived for almost a half century, having come here with his parents in 1866. He continued at home until his marriage two years later. He had given active manifestation of his patriotic spirit and his loyalty to his country by enlisting on the 20th of August, 1862, in McHenry county, Illinois, as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war. He was taken prisoner at Youngs Point, Louisiana, but was paroled after thirty days. The regiment was attached to the First Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, known as Logan's Corps, and with his command Mr. Carr went through the entire siege of Vicksburg, took part in the battles of Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and was in the Atlanta campaign, in which he was for one hundred and five days under fire. He had a most arduous military experience, but he never faltered in the face of danger, bravely defending his country and her interests whether on the firing line or the lonely picket post. With the close of the war he participated in the Grand Review in Washington, D. C., and was then mustered out, receiving an honorable discharge in Chicago, on the 19th of June, 1865. He returned home with a most creditable military record and the history of his service as a Union soldier is one of which he has every reason to be proud.

Since the war Mr. Carr has been actively engaged in farming in Butler county and at one time was the owner of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land, of which he still retains eighty acres, comprising the old homestead on section 12, Jackson township, a mile and three-quarters west of Clarksville. He took up his abode upon this place forty-five years ago and in connection with the production of crops best adapted to soil and climate he has made a specialty of raising horses.

On the 5th of September, 1868, Mr. Carr was married to Mrs. Frances J. Wamsley, who was born in Henry county, Indiana, March 11, 1839, and died here on the 21st of September, 1911. She



was the widow of Martin B. Wamsley, who died while a prisoner of war at Tyler, Texas. By her first marriage she had four children: R. P., now deceased; S. B., living in Jackson township; Mary E., who became the wife of Harry Parker and died in Ione, Washington; and M. V., of Jackson township. These four children were reared by Mr. Carr as his own. There were four children born of the second marriage, but two sons died in infancy. The elder of the surviving sons is William A., who occupies the old homestead. The younger, James L., of Westplains, Missouri, married Annie Moore, a daughter of W. H. Moore, deceased, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. The two children of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Carr are Jerry and Roy.

Clark Carr has long been an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, having joined James Butler Post, No. 220, of Clarksville, on its organization. He likewise belongs to Butler Lodge, No. 94, A. F. & A. M., of Clarksville. His political allegiance is always given to the republican party, but he has never sought nor desired office. His religious faith is that of the Christian church. His whole life has been devoted to his home and family. For forty-three years he had a most happy married life, but since his wife's death has been very lonely. He remained upon the home farm alone for two years but now his eldest son and his family reside with him. He has witnessed many notable changes in the county, which has been transformed from a frontier district into a populous and prosperous region since he arrived. Something of the rise in land values is indicated in the fact that he has refused one hundred and fifty dollars per acre for his farm. It has been his home for forty-five years and he wishes to remain upon the old homestead as long as he lives. His many friends hope that he will be yet spared for many years to come, for he has ever been regarded as a valued and representative citizen and one whose genuine personal worth has gained for him the esteem of all.

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#### W. A. CARR.

W. A. Carr was born July 21, 1869, upon the farm on section 12, Jackson township, which is now his home. He was reared in the usual manner of farm lads, attending the district schools and working in the fields through the summer months. He con-

tinued with his father until the fall of 1903, when he went to Gary, Deuel county, South Dakota, purchasing there a quarter section of land, which he cultivated and developed for two years. He then removed to the town of Gary, where he conducted a produce business and shoe store, but sold out to his partner in 1913 in order to return to Butler county and assume the management of the old homestead. He still owns the farm in South Dakota.

On the 7th of October, 1896, Mr. Carr was married to Miss Marguerite May Lansing, who was born in Story county, Iowa, in 1872. The three children of this marriage are: Wilma, born in 1898; Dorothy Jane, August 29, 1903; and Elsie Mae, June 20, 1909. The parents are both members of the Christian church and also of the Eastern Star. Mr. Carr has been identified with the Masonic lodge from the age of twenty-two years and has always been loyal to the teachings and tenets of the craft. He served as school treasurer while in Gary and has held some local offices in this county. He was reared in the faith of the republican party and has seen no reason to change his political belief since arriving at years of maturity. In fact, he is more convinced than ever in his opinions and it is well known fact that his position upon any vital question is never an equivocal one. He stands for what he believes to be right and in matters of citizenship as well as in business relations has made a creditable record.

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### JULIUS TEMPLE.

Julius Temple, one of the few remaining veterans of the Civil war and today one of the best known farmers and stock-raisers of Dayton township, owns and operates one hundred and twenty acres of excellent land three miles from Greene. He is numbered among the pioneers in Iowa, having located here in 1858. He was born near Springfield, Massachusetts, January 13, 1844, a son of John Temple, also a native of that state, who passed away when his son was still a child.

Mr. Temple remained in Massachusetts until he was fourteen years of age and then came west, locating in the vicinity of Waterloo, Iowa, where he attended high school. At the age of twenty he moved to Wisconsin and in May, 1864, enlisted in Fond du Lac as

a member of Company D, Forty-first Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. His regiment was sent south to Memphis and on the way participated in several engagements under General A. J. Smith. Mr. Temple was in the battle of Holly Springs and fought against General Forrest at Memphis. He took part in four engagements during the march up the Tennessee river and he witnessed Lee's surrender to Grant. At the close of hostilities he was mustered out, receiving his honorable discharge at Milwaukee in September, 1865. Returning to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, he spent the winter with his uncle in that city and then in the spring of 1866 they both came to Iowa, the uncle buying a mill site at Eldora, building a dam and erecting a flour and grist mill. They carried on business there for a number of years but eventually Julius Temple returned to the vicinity of Waterloo, where he purchased a farm. At the end of two years he sold this property and bought land in Floyd county, breaking one hundred acres and beginning the work of development. Soon afterward, however, he disposed of this property also and purchased the one hundred and twenty acres in Dayton township upon which he has since resided. He broke the soil, erected fences and put out a grove of forest and evergreen trees as well as a fine row of cottonwood trees along the road in front of his farm. At first he erected a small house upon his place and this he later replaced by a large modern residence with two ells. He erected also a substantial barn and granary and corn cribs as well as other buildings which he keeps always in good repair, his farm being one of the best improved and most valuable properties in his locality.

Mr. Temple's marriage, which occurred May 10, 1873, was the first ceremony of this kind to be performed in the town of Greene. On that date he wedded Miss Beth Ann Miner, a sister of R. and O. C. Miner, prominent business men of Greene, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Temple have two children. John, a resident of Greene, is married and has one son, Walker. Jessie acquired her education in the public schools of Butler county and is now at home. The parents are members of the Greene Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Temple gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has always taken an active interest in community affairs, serving in various positions of public trust and responsibility. He has been township trustee and township clerk and he was also for three years a member of the county board of supervisors. The cause of education finds in him a loyal and devoted

champion and he was one of the men who helped to locate and erect many of the school buildings in Butler county. During the long period of his residence in this locality he has contributed materially to growth and development along many lines and is recognized as one of the individual factors in general progress. A man of sterling character, good business ability and progressive public spirit, he has advanced steadily to a position of prominence and importance and today holds a high place in the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens.

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### WILLIAM E. PATTERSON, M. D.

Dr. William E. Patterson, who in the thirteen years of his connection with the medical profession in Greene has made steady and creditable progress, establishing himself in an enviable position in the regard of the public by reason of his skill and ability in his chosen calling, was born in Clarksville, this county, October 7, 1875. He is a son of Francis Patterson, a native of Canada, who came with his parents to the United States when he was still a child, settling with them in DeKalb county, Illinois, where he grew to manhood. He later moved to Iowa and settled in Butler county, where he became one of the well known and prosperous residents. Dr. William E. Patterson was reared in Clarksville and acquired his early education in the city schools. He afterward attended Waterloo college and then studied for two years in the medical department of the State University. At the end of that time he entered the college of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago, Illinois, and was graduated from that institution with the degree of M. D. in 1900. After completing his studies, Dr. Patterson settled in Greene, where he has since engaged in the practice of his profession. He has, however, never considered his medical education complete, but has taken many special courses and has remained always a close and earnest student of his profession. His patronage has steadily grown, as he has demonstrated his skill and ability and he is recognized as one of the most progressive and able medical practitioners of the county. He reads broadly and thinks deeply and the result of his investigation and research is seen in the excellent service which he renders his patrons. He is a member of the American Medical Association and the Iowa State and

Austin Flint Medical Societies and he thus keeps in touch with the trend of modern thought in his profession.

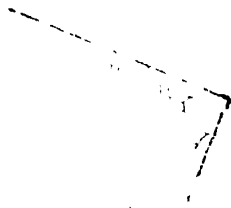
In Charles City, on the 14th of September, 1901, Dr. Patterson was united in marriage to Miss Martha Smith, who was born in Ohio and who lived there until she was eleven years of age. Her family later moved to Iowa and settled in Marble Rock. Dr. and Mrs. Patterson became the parents of three children: Max Edward; Katherine Faith; and Mary Ruth, who died in December, 1905. The family occupies a comfortable home in Thorp's addition, the best resident section of Greene, and the parents are well known in social circles.

Dr. Patterson gives his political allegiance to the republican party and served one term as county coroner, and for some time as a member of the board of health. He is connected with the Masonic fraternity and an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His interests are thoroughly identified with those of Greene and Butler county where he has passed his entire life, and where he is known as a public-spirited and progressive citizen. In professional and social life he holds to high standards and his worth as a man and a citizen is widely acknowledged.

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### JOHN G. EVANS, M. D.

The name of Dr. John G. Evans has come to be regarded as synonymous with general progress and advancement in Butler county, for he is not only one of the leading physicians and surgeons of New Hartford, but is also mayor of the city and is an active and influential factor in both political and business affairs. He was born near Waterloo, in Blackhawk county, August 26, 1866, and is a son of John O. and Rebecca (McClintock) Evans, natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in 1826 and the latter in 1830. During his early years the father engaged in teaching, but after coming to Iowa in 1855 turned his attention to farming, operating an excellent tract of land near Waterloo until his death, which occurred in 1896. His wife passed away in 1899. They were the parents of seven children, Josephine, David, Katie, Dora, John G., William T. and Elmer L. The eldest son died in infancy.



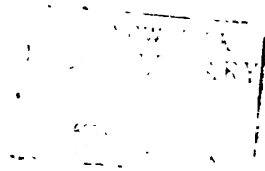


DR. JOHN G. EVANS



MRS. JOHN G. EVANS





Dr. Evans acquired his early education in the district schools of Blackhawk county and afterward attended the Waterloo high school, from which he was graduated in 1886. He then spent two and a half years as clerk in a hardware store, but, having determined upon the practice of medicine as a life work, he abandoned commercial pursuits to enter the office of Dr. D. W. Crouse. In the fall of 1889 he enrolled as a student in the medical department of the Iowa State University and was graduated with the degree of M. D. on the 15th of March, 1893. He afterward pursued a postgraduate course in Chicago in 1897 and another in the Polyclinic College in that city in 1910. He has always remained a close and earnest student of his profession, constantly broadening his knowledge by reading, research and investigation. He began practice in New Hartford in 1893 and the recognition of his skill and ability has brought him a large patronage. He has one of the best equipped offices in Butler county, provided with all modern instruments and appliances which are of recognized value in the work of the profession. In addition to his large private practice he is also local surgeon for the Illinois Central Railroad. He belongs to the Butler County Medical Society, in which he served for several years as secretary and for two years as president. He likewise belongs to the Austin Flint, the Iowa State and the American Medical Associations, and he is a leading member of the Railway Surgeons Association. He attends with great regularity the meetings of these different societies and thus keeps in touch with the trend of modern thought in his profession. He has made a particular study of preventive medicine and has been able to apply some of his theories concerning sanitation and the laws of health during his incumbency in the office of mayor of New Hartford, particularly in clearing out all of the weeds and poisonous herbs within the corporate limits of the city. Aside from his practice his business connections are important, for he is one of the stockholders of the New Hartford State Bank, the Security Savings Bank of Cedar Falls and the Plainfield Savings Bank, of which he is also a director and member of the examining committee. He owns two residence properties in New Hartford. His business enterprise and ability have carried him forward into important relations with the commercial and financial interests of the community.

In New Hartford, on the 12th of June, 1894, Dr. Evans was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Cousins, a daughter of Hon. John A. and Rebecca Cousins, the former the oldest male resident in Iowa. He was in business for a great many years in New Hart-

ford, being engaged in the sale of drugs, hardware, implements and lumber, his business activity making him one of the foremost representatives of commercial interests in the town. He was twice elected to represent his district in the state legislature, in which he served with distinction. Mrs. Evans was born in Grundy county, began her education there, and was afterward a student in the public schools of New Hartford. When sixteen years of age she entered the Iowa State Teachers College. She did not graduate there, however, but returned home and acted as her father's book-keeper until her marriage to Dr. Evans. She is a lady of native culture and refinement and is a prominent member of the Woman's Club of New Hartford and the Woman's Relief Corps.

Dr. Evans holds membership with the Masons, and both he and his wife are connected with the Eastern Star, in which she has been warden and treasurer. He is a charter member of the Modern Brotherhood of America and medical examiner for the Modern Woodmen of America. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has been very active in school affairs, serving for nine years as school director. In 1913 he was made mayor of New Hartford and has proved an excellent executive, promoting the best interests of the city in an intelligent and practical manner. A man of broad culture and high standards, his interests have extended to many fields and have become powerful forces in promoting professional, political and business growth in this section of the state.

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#### LYMAN L. DOWNS.

Forty-three years have come and gone since Lyman L. Downs arrived in Butler county, where he became an active factor in agricultural pursuits, continuing the development of his farm until, content with the competence which he had acquired, he put aside business cares and retired to private life. He now makes his home in Clarksville, where he is most pleasantly situated, and his life history indicates what may be accomplished when energy and perseverance lead the way and industry and honesty constitute the salient features in the acquirement of success. He was born in Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois, May 15, 1842, a son of George W. and Marana (Norton) Downs, natives of New York and of Michigan, respectively. In his boyhood the father accom-

panied his parents to Illinois and afterward went to Michigan, where he was married. For many years he followed farming in Illinois but later entered the wholesale and retail grocery business in Belvidere. The only interruption to his active business life came at the time of the Civil war, when he joined the commissary department, enlisting on the 4th of September, 1862, on which date he became a member of Company G, Ninety-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was discharged during the second year of his service and returned to his home. He died in 1892, at the age of seventy-four years, having long survived his wife, who passed away in 1854.

Lyman L. Downs is the only survivor of the three children born of his father's first marriage. The latter married again but there were no children of that union. After spending his boyhood, youth and early manhood in his native county Lyman L. Downs removed to Butler county in May, 1870. He enlisted September 4, 1863, as a member of Company G, Ninety-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until honorably discharged at the close of the war, returning to his home with a most creditable military record. He had tried for enlistment the same year that his father was mustered in but was not accepted on account of physical conditions, but was accepted one year later. He devoted his energies to farming in his native state until he came to Iowa, where he purchased one hundred and ninety acres of land on section 5, Jackson township. Here he farmed until he retired and he is still the owner of the land. In the summer of 1912 he erected his present commodious and attractive residence in Clarksville and is now most pleasantly situated, the fruits of his former toil supplying him with all of the necessities and comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

In 1880 Mr. Downs was united in marriage to Mrs. Millie Smith Howe, who was born in Indiana, May 3, 1845. Her father died before she was born and she lost her mother when but a year old. At six years of age she came to Butler county with her grandfather, Almond Tree. Her grandmother had died when Mrs. Downs was but two years old. Her grandfather was a grand old man who had served in the War of 1812. He took care of his little granddaughter as best he could without a woman's aid. He would find her a place to stay and when he saw that she was not being well treated he would get her and secure for her another home. He died in Floyd county, Iowa, and his memory is deeply cherished by Mrs. Downs. By her former marriage Mrs. Downs

had no children, but two have been born of the second union: George A., now a practicing dentist of Sterling, Illinois, and Mar-ana M., the wife of John W. Best, of Waterloo, Iowa.

Mr. Downs holds membership with the Grand Army of the Republic and greatly enjoys meeting with his old-time comrades and recalling the scenes of the tented fields. He is a prohibitionist and a Presbyterian—connections which indicate how high and honorable are the principles which govern his life. He stands at all times for those things which work for the betterment of the individual and for the community and he has never deviated from a course which he believed to be right between himself and his fellowmen.

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### M. H. SPROUL.

For the past twenty-one years M. H. Sproul has been engaged in the lumber and implement business in Greene and today controls important interests along this line as a member of the firm of Cave, Sproul & Company. He is numbered among the progressive and substantial business men of Greene and among the prominent and public-spirited citizens of Butler county, where since 1882 he has made his home. He was born in Ontario, Canada, June 9, 1861, a son of W. J. Sproul, also a native of that province, his birth having occurred in 1833. The father grew to manhood in Ontario and there married Miss Sarah J. Ray. He engaged in farming in his native province for a number of years but in 1882 moved with his family to Iowa, making a permanent location in Bennezzette township, Butler county. There he and his sons purchased a tract of six hundred and forty acres of land which they improved and developed for a number of years. The father later moved to Greene where he lived retired. His wife passed away in 1904. In their family were five children, four sons and one daughter, all of whom are living and are heads of families.

M. H. Sproul grew to manhood in Ontario, acquiring his education in the public schools of that province. He accompanied his parents to Iowa in 1882 and settled in Butler county, where he has since remained a continuous resident. He engaged in farming in Bennezzette township for ten years and then rented his farm and moved to Greene, securing a position as salesman for the firm of Cave, Tyler & Company, dealers in lumber and imple-

ments. At the end of ten years Mr. Sproul purchased an interest in this concern, which was then reorganized under the name of Cave, Sproul & Company. This is his present business connection and his energy and well directed labor have been helpful factors in making this one of the leading firms of its kind in Iowa. The company carries a complete stock of lumber and building materials, farm implements, assorted vehicles and coal and the members of the firm are ranked among the most progressive and substantial business men of Butler county. Mr. Sproul is in addition connected with the Greene Electric Light & Power Company, which he aided in promoting, and his name is a synonym for integrity and straightforward dealing along business lines.

In Ontario, on the 19th of December, 1881, Mr. Sproul was united in marriage to Miss Eva Hanes, who was born in Minnesota but reared in Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Sproul are the parents of two sons. Charles F. grew to maturity and turned his attention to farming. He died August 31, 1911, at the age of twenty-seven, leaving a wife and two children. The younger son, Carl, is engaged in farming near Greene.

Mr. Sproul is a Master Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Greene, and is past grand of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. For over twenty-one years he has been a resident of Greene and one of its most active and progressive citizens and during that time he has gained the esteem and high regard of all with whom he has come in contact.

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### W. H. BUCHHOLZ.

W. H. Buchholz, a representative of a well known pioneer family of Butler county and one of the most prominent and representative business men of Greene, where for the past eighteen years he has controlled important mercantile interests, was born in Fremont township, this county, September 12, 1872. His father, William Buchholz, was born in Hanover, Germany, May 22, 1846, and came to America with his parents, locating in Clayton county, this state, in 1853. There William Buchholz grew to maturity, acquiring a limited education. He moved to Butler county in 1866 and located on a farm near Clarksville, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land upon which he resided for

a number of years. He was married in Rockford, Illinois, in 1872, his wife being Miss Mary Brockmann, a native of Iowa. They commenced their domestic life near Clarksville and later moved into the city, where Mr. Buchholz purchased an established mercantile business, conducting it successfully for ten or twelve years. In 1906 he moved to Greene, where he joined his son in the organization of the firm of William Buchholz & Son, with which he is still connected. His wife passed away in 1892, leaving four children: W. H., of this review; Frances, the wife of Louis Schellenger, of Clarksville; Nettie, who married Bert Ochiltree, of Tipton, Iowa; and Lelah, who lives at home.

W. H. Buchholz was reared in Clarksville and acquired his education in the city schools. After clerking in the store of A. Price for a number of years he moved to Greene, where he became manager of the mercantile establishment owned by Mr. Price at this place. At the end of one year he purchased this enterprise and with his father formed the firm of William Buchholz & Son, today one of the leading mercantile firms of the city. The partners control a business worth from seventy-five to one hundred thousand dollars a year and their trade is constantly increasing in volume and importance. They erected the store which they now occupy, a fine two-story brick building originally twenty-six by one hundred and twenty feet in dimensions but since enlarged to fifty-two by one hundred and twenty feet. In 1913 W. H. Buchholz with F. G. Phillips of Clarksville erected two one-story business buildings on Main street and they have rented one as a theater and the other as a mercantile establishment. He was one of the promoters of the Greene Electric Light & Power Company, of which he is now a large stockholder and president, and his influence has been felt as a constructive force in the general business development of the city.

In Clarksville, on the 25th of June, 1900, Mr. Buchholz was united in marriage to Miss Etta Phillips, who was reared and educated in that city. She is the daughter of F. G. and Mary (McRoberts) Phillips, residents of Clarksville. Mr. and Mrs. Buchholz both attend the Presbyterian church, to which they are liberal contributors. Mr. Buchholz is identified with the Knights of Pythias and has passed through all the chairs of the local lodge, being now past chancellor. He is independent in his political views, supporting men and measures without regard to party lines. For two terms he served as mayor of Greene and during that time accomplished a great deal of progressive public

work, having been instrumental in effecting the installation of the water system in the city. A man of varied interests, he possesses the power of making all of these effective in their different lines and his work has had an important influence upon the commercial, moral and political life of the community.

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### HON. O. F. MISSMAN.

Hon. O. F. Missman, mayor of Allison and a prominent member of the Butler county bar as well as manager of the Butler County Abstract Company, belongs to that class of energetic men whose recognition of opportunities results in a wise and prompt utilization thereof, with the outcome that substantial results accrue. Born in Hardin county, Iowa, near Ackley, on the 2d of November, 1875, he is a son of Herman and Minnie (Specht) Missman, both of whom were born near Hamburg, Germany, and came to the United States when six and nine years of age respectively. They made the voyage with their parents and for a time were residents of Illinois, in which state they were married, the wedding being celebrated in Dixon. About 1862 they arrived in Iowa, residing in Hardin county, until 1878, when they took up their abode near Hampton, Franklin county. In 1893 they removed to Britt, Hancock county, Iowa, and they are now living in Garner, Iowa, Mr. Missman having retired from agricultural pursuits to which he devoted many years of his life. In politics a republican, he has always been loyal to the party and has filled a number of township offices. Both he and his wife were members of the German Evangelical church but now hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. In their family were ten children, six sons and four daughters, of whom one son, Clarence, died at the age of twenty-three years.

O. F. Missman remained with his parents upon the home farm until 1900, but wishing to follow a professional career, rather than devote his life to the work of the fields, he then entered the law department of Drake University, from which he was graduated in 1905. Previous to that time he had spent one year as a classical student in the Iowa State University. He was admitted to the bar in 1906 and soon afterward was elected clerk of the district court of Hancock county, which office he acceptably filled for four years. He was then nominated for county attorney of Hancock county,



but withdrew before the election and engaged in the law and abstract business at Allison, which he has continued since.

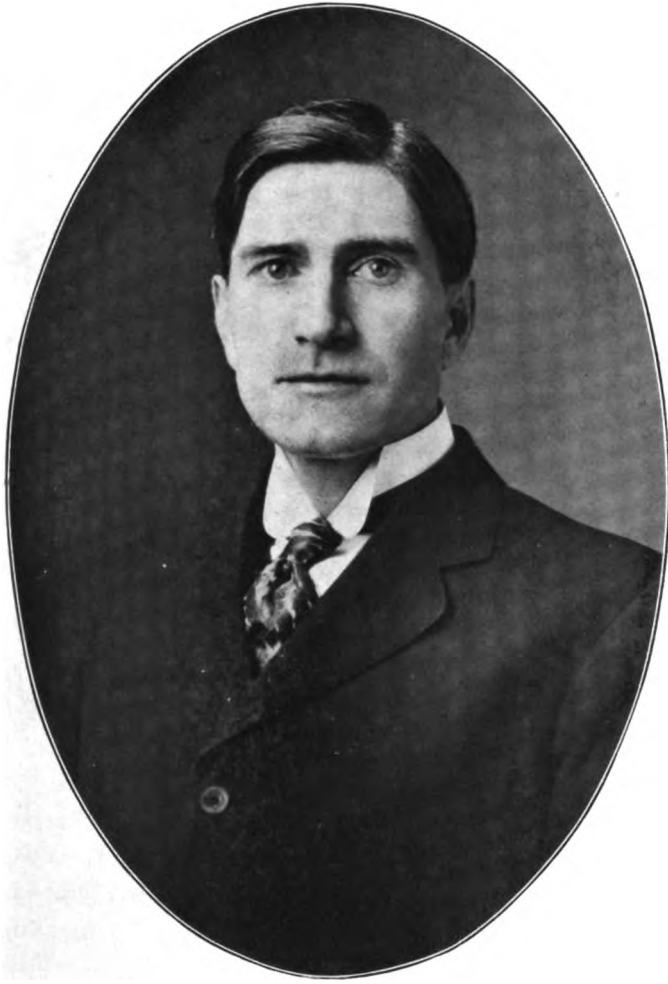
In January, 1911, he took up his abode in the county seat and is today numbered among the able members of the Butler county bar. He carefully analyzes his cases, reaches logical conclusions and his deductions are always clear and forcible.

On the 6th of January, 1907, Mr. Missman was married to Miss Neva Cloe Welton, who was born in Carroll county, Iowa, November 27, 1885, a daughter of T. M. and Vialle (Harvey) Welton, who are natives of Polk county, and now reside at Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Missman have a son, Thomas Welton. The parents are well known socially in Allison and have gained many warm friends during the period of their residence here. They hold membership in the Congregational church and Mr. Missman is also a member of Opal Lodge, A. F. & A. M. He is likewise secretary of the Butler County Fair Association and in politics he is a republican. There have been no spectacular phases in his life history, his record being characterized by devotion to duty and his loyalty to his clients' interests has become proverbial. The excellent record which he has made in professional circles and in private life led to his selection for the important office of mayor, in which he is now serving and his administration is characterized by promptness and businesslike methods, so that the city is profiting under his regime.

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#### CHARLES GLENN BURLING.

Charles Glenn Burling, of Clarksville, filling the position of county attorney and well qualified by a comprehensive knowledge of the law and the careful preparation of his cases for the duties that devolve upon him, was born at West Union, Fayette county, Iowa, September 18, 1875, and is a son of F. S. and Flora (Ketchum) Burling. The father, a native of England, came west with his parents in early childhood and settled in Freeport, Illinois, but subsequently removed to Fayette county, Iowa. It was there that he married Flora Ketchum, a native of New York, who had come to this state with her parents. They now reside at Postville, where Mr. Burling has engaged continuously and successfully in the practice of law since 1872, in which year he was graduated from the law department of the State Univer-



CHARLES G. BURLING



sity of Iowa. Unto him and his wife have been born four children: C. G.; Josephine, the wife of F. L. Marquis, of Waterloo, Iowa; Genevieve; and W. H., who studied law under his father and at the State University and is now practicing his profession as his father's partner.

C. G. Burling remained with his parents until 1897, when he came to Butler county, remaining for a few months at the county seat and then removing to Clarksville. He is a graduate of the Postville high school of the class of 1892 and was graduated from the State University in 1896, on the completion of the arts course, and from the law department of the State University in 1897. It was then that he came to Butler county, where he has since remained, devoting his time and attention to his profession, in which he has made steady advancement. In politics he has always been a republican and upon that ticket he was elected county attorney in January, 1901. The excellent record which he made during his first term's service led to his reelection and he served for four years. In January, 1913, there occurred a vacancy in the office and the board of supervisors appointed him to the position. Aside from his professional interests he is a director in the Butler County State Bank of Clarksville and is financially interested in farm lands.

On the 30th of December, 1903, Mr. Burling was married to Miss Lula A. Ray, who was born in this county and is a daughter of J. W. and Emma Ray, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. The two children of this marriage are Beth Ray and Irma May. Fraternally Mr. Burling is a Royal Arch Mason and his allegiance to the organization and its principles is never doubted. High principles of manhood and citizenship have characterized his life and his salient traits are those which win regard, good-will and confidence. In his profession he has made substantial and gratifying progress and his developing ability promises well for the future.

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#### T. R. TAMMEN.

T. R. Tammen, cashier of the Beaver Valley State Bank, has filled his present position since 1907. A native of Parkersburg, he was born November 6, 1882, being the only child of Fritz and Meta (Renken) Tammen, both of whom were natives of Germany,

the former born in 1841 and the latter in 1847. The father came to Iowa in 1873 and here successfully followed mercantile pursuits, being highly respected and esteemed in business as well as in social circles.

T. R. Tammen attended school in Parkersburg until seventeen years of age and after taking a business course in Des Moines, Iowa, entered into active connection with the banking business. He accepted a position with the State Exchange Bank, with which institution he remained for five years, thoroughly acquainting himself with the details of the business. In January, 1907, he was elected to the position of cashier of the Beaver Valley State Bank and has since remained in that connection, his efforts and ability contributing in no small measure to the success which has attended the institution. Mr. Tammen is also one of the directors of the bank and holds considerable stock therein.

Mr. Tammen was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude Bode, a daughter of Rev. Henry and Grietje Bode, the ceremony taking place at Parkersburg on the 8th of August, 1906. Two children have been born of this union, Frederick B. and Harold C.

Mr. Tammen gives his political allegiance to the republican party and, although interested in matters pertaining to the general welfare, has never entered actively into politics. He is a member of the Christian Reformed church.

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#### CHARLES MERRITT STARKWEATHER.

Charles Merritt Starkweather has been a resident of Butler county since 1874 and since that time has been prominently connected with its agricultural interests, owning today a well improved and valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 10, Coldwater township, and another tract of sixty acres in the vicinity. He was born in Potter county, Pennsylvania, September 17, 1854, and is a son of Sidney William and Delight (Lewis) Starkweather, natives of New York state, the former born in Chautauqua county. They removed to Potter county, Pennsylvania, where the father engaged in farming for a number of years. In 1874 he moved west to Iowa, locating in Butler county, where he purchased ninety acres of land upon which was a small log cabin. A few acres of the property were under cultivation and the remainder Mr. Starkweather cleared, carrying on

the work of developing his homestead along progressive and modern lines. He replaced the log cabin by an excellent farm house and erected good barns and outbuildings, neglecting nothing which would add to the appearance or value of the property. He died upon his farm in 1896, having survived his wife since 1892.

Charles Merritt Starkweather is one of the three surviving members of a family of seven children. He was reared upon his father's farm in Potter county, Pennsylvania, acquiring his education in the district schools. From his childhood he aided in the improvement and development of his father's property and afterward assisted in the operation of the farm in Butler county. After the death of his father he purchased the homestead, to which he has later added from time to time, owning today two hundred and twenty acres. He has built to and remodeled the house and now has two barns, cribs and granaries and a machine shop, besides an excellent hog house and a cement silo with a capacity of one hundred tons. He has put out an orchard and a grove of forest and evergreen trees which adds greatly to the appearance of his place. In addition to general farming he engages extensively in raising Aberdeen Angus cattle, of which he has a herd of fifty head, some pure-blooded and the remainder high-grade animals. He raises also good grades of hogs, horses and sheep. He is a stockholder in the Greene Cooperative Creamery Company and is known as a resourceful and discriminating business man.

In Dayton township, this county, on the 22d of July, 1885, Mr. Starkweather was united in marriage to Miss Tamar C. Delker, who was born and reared in Butler county, a daughter of Frederick Delker, one of the early settlers in this part of Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Starkweather have become the parents of nine children: William F., a farmer in Coldwater township, who married Lottie Filkins, a native of New York state; Charles L., who is aiding in the operation of the homestead; E. L., who married Clara Stepp, a native of Virginia, and now resides in Dayton township; Alice D., the wife of George E. Hansen, a farmer in Coldwater township; Archie G.; Clarence G.; Lawrence G.; George Rolly and Cecil W.

Fraternally Mr. Starkweather is a Master Mason, holding membership in the blue lodge of Greene. He and his wife are members of the United Brethren church of Coldwater. He was for many years connected with the republican party but in 1912 joined the ranks of the progressives. He served for two terms as road supervisor and has been prominently identified with school

affairs. He is a successful and prosperous farmer and a representative business man and he holds the esteem and high regard of his neighbors and friends.

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### RICHARD MINER.

Since 1877 Richard Miner has been a resident of Iowa and during the greater portion of that time has made his home in Greene, where he is prominently connected with business interests as secretary of the Electric Light & Power Company. He was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, April 30, 1845, and there remained until he was ten years of age. He is a son of John and Rebecca A. (Dudgeon) Miner, natives of Ohio. Both parents are now dead. Our subject afterward resided for a similar period of time in Greene county, Wisconsin, acquiring a common school education. As a young man he came to Iowa, locating in Butler county in 1877. He later removed to Clay county and there engaged in the undertaking and furniture business for four years. At the end of that time he moved to Greene and opened a furniture and undertaking business here, continuing active in its conduct for twenty-eight years thereafter. During the period of his residence here his interests have extended to many fields and have carried him forward into important relations with business life. He was one of the promoters of the Greene Electric Light & Power Company and has been its secretary since its organization. The company purchased the interests of the Greene Manufacturing & Milling Company and rebuilt the dam, thus obtaining water power sufficient to supply both the electric light plant and the flour mills. It controls large interests and has a representative patronage, its officers being ranked among the prominent and substantial men of the city. In addition to his connection with this company Mr. Miner is a stockholder in the First State Bank of Iowa and has valuable property interests, owning a fine brick business house which he erected on Main street, and an attractive residence on the west side of the river.

In Ackley, Iowa, March 20, 1872, Mr. Miner was united in marriage to Miss Maggie Nary, a native of Ireland, and they have become the parents of a daughter, Mary, who lives at home. Mr. Miner is a blue lodge Mason and is connected also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being past grand of his lodge,

which he represented in the Grand Lodge of Iowa. His daughter is well known in the affairs of the Eastern Star, having served as secretary of that organization for several years. Mr. Miner is a republican in his political beliefs and since he assisted in the incorporation of Greene has taken an active part in public affairs, serving on the town board for twelve years and as a member of the board of education. He is an able business man and a public-spirited and progressive citizen and he holds the esteem and confidence of all who are associated with him.

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### JEROME SHADBOLT.

Jerome Shadbolt passed away at the venerable age of eighty-three years, six months and twenty-two days, on the 31st of October, 1906. He had long been a resident of Butler county, having arrived here in the year 1855. He was a man well known for his business integrity and enterprise and much of his admirable character is indicated in the fact that he was in partnership with one man for thirty-two years. He was born in Stillwater, Saratoga county, New York, April 9, 1823, and when three years of age was taken by his parents to Genesee county, that state, where he remained until he reached the age of twenty-four. It was on the 3d of September, 1846, in Batavia, Genesee county, that he married Miss Louise L. Main, who was born there May 13, 1829, a daughter of William and Sophia (Briggs) Main, the former a native of Maryland and the latter, of Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. Main was a daughter of Dr. William Briggs, a native of England, who after coming to America enlisted as a physician and surgeon under General George Washington at the time when he first took command of the American forces. Dr. Briggs was a prominent member of the medical profession in Boston and was a splendidly educated man. Following the war he took an active part in governmental affairs. His daughter Sophia was left an orphan at the age of nine years, at the age of nineteen was a teacher in a high school of Boston and at twenty-two years of age was married, becoming the wife of William Main, a merchant of that city. She died in Batavia, New York. In their family were eight children who reached adult age but Mrs. Louise Shadbolt is the only one now living.



In the year 1847 Jerome Shadbolt and his young wife emigrated westward to what was then the territory of Wisconsin. They arrived in Milwaukee on the 14th of October but Mr. Shadbolt did not believe the little village by the lake would ever amount to much and made his way northward a distance of twenty-one miles, to Grafton, Wisconsin. There he purchased the water power rights and erected a large factory for the manufacture of chairs. The business proved very profitable and he made money in that connection until he sold out to his partner preparatory to coming to Iowa. He arrived in Clarksville on the 4th of July, 1855, and was thereafter a resident of Butler county. He was a contractor and builder by trade and here entered into partnership with John Madigan, the relationship between them being maintained most harmoniously and profitably for thirty-two years, during which period they erected many substantial structures in and around Clarksville. Mr. Shadbolt also operated a steam sawmill here for some time.

The only interruption to his business career came when in 1864 he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting in the Fifteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he went to the front. He participated in the celebrated march to the sea under Sherman and was in the grand review in Washington, D. C., where thousands of victorious Union soldiers marched through the streets of the capital city from which hung a banner emblazoned with the words: "The only debt that the country owes which she cannot pay is the debt that she owes her soldiers." With the close of the war he was honorably discharged at Davenport, Iowa. In his later years he held membership with the Grand Army of the Republic and took great delight in meeting with his old army comrades. He returned from the war and again resumed his place as a business man of Clarksville and in connection with his building operations he engaged in farming for five or six years.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Shadbolt were born seven children: Jerome, who enlisted at the age of fifteen years for service in the Union Army, being at the front at the same time as his father, died December 15, 1871. Ida M. is the wife of William Walsh, of Clarksville. C. Sumner is living at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Albon B. is a resident of Bremer county. Rouen is the wife of J. P. Martin, of Butler county. Jessie O. is the wife of H. E. French, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume, and Charles P., died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Shadbolt united with the Presbyterian church on the 15th of April, 1900. Mrs. Shadbolt is a charter

member of the Women's Relief Corps and is the oldest living member of that body. She is at this time eighty-four years of age and a most remarkable woman for her years, still hale and hearty, physically and mentally. Mr. Shadbolt was ever a man of unsailable integrity and during his long residence in Clarksville he made many friends by reason of his enterprise, perseverance and reliability in business and his trustworthiness in other relations of life. He lived to witness many changes during the period of his residence here, covering more than a half century, and at all times he bore his full share in the work of general development and improvement.

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### FRANCIS E. NEWBURY.

Francis E. Newbury, a resident of Bristow, where he is now engaged in buying cream, has been more or less actively identified with agricultural interests in Butler county for forty-six years. He was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin, January 8, 1844, and is a son of H. A. and Catharine (McCay) Newbury, natives of Connecticut, in which state they were married. They removed westward to Wisconsin during its territorial days and their remaining days were spent in Kenosha, where the father followed the carpenter's trade and also carried on farming in that locality. They had a family of three sons: John C., now deceased, who served for about eighteen months in the Civil war; H. F., living in Brooklyn, New York; and Francis E.

The last named spent his boyhood days under the parental roof in his native city and in 1864 responded to his country's call for troops, enlisting as a member of Company G, Forty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for a year, being mustered out at Milwaukee in July, 1865. He held the rank of corporal and participated in several engagements, including the last battle of the war.

For a year after the close of hostilities Mr. Newbury worked on his father's farm in Wisconsin and was married there in the fall of 1866. In the spring of the following year he brought his young wife to Butler county, settling in West Point township, where he purchased a farm which he cultivated and improved until 1881. In that year he opened a hotel in Bristow which he conducted until 1885 and then returned to the farm, upon which

he lived for fifteen years, or until 1900. Since then he has made his home in Bristow and still owns the farm, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land which yields to him a good annual income. During the past three years he has been engaged in buying cream in connection with his son.

As previously stated, it was in the year 1866 that Mr. Newbury married, the lady of his choice being Miss Sophia Zemira Pierce, who was born in Wisconsin in April, 1848, a daughter of R. C. Pierce. The three children of this marriage are: H. C., who is operating his father's farm; Floyd I., of Bristow; and Lela C., the wife of W. A. Richards, a merchant of Bristow. The family is well known in Butler county and its members are held in high esteem.

In politics Mr. Newbury is a republican, voting for the party since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He was then in the army and was but twenty years of age but the right of franchise was accorded all soldiers. For much of the time during the past forty years he has filled the office of justice of the peace and is the present incumbent of that position in Bristow. He was also county supervisor for one term and has held a number of school offices, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart friend. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and to the Grand Army of the Republic and of both organizations is counted a valued representative. The long years of his residence in Butler county have made him widely known and his many sterling qualities have gained him the high regard of friends and acquaintances alike.

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### HENRY DRALLE.

A fact that is not always given due recognition is that Germany has furnished to Butler county a large percentage of her substantial citizens, men who have adapted themselves to changed conditions in this country and have become progressive and substantial residents of the communities in which they live. Such a one is Henry Dralle, who was born in Westphalen, Germany, on the 8th of August, 1862, his parents being William and Sophia (Schmidt) Dralle, who were likewise natives of Westphalen. Their last days, however, were spent upon a farm in West Point township, this county, where the father died in 1910, at the age of



HENRY DRAILE AND FAMILY

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seventy-one years, having long survived his wife, who passed away in 1887, at the age of fifty-four. They came to the United States in 1885, Henry Dralle making a trip back to the old country to bring them to the new world. The father was a miller by trade and followed that pursuit in Germany, but after coming to the United States gave his attention to farming and was the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, which he left to his family at the time of his death. There were six children: Henry; Minnie, the wife of Herman Niehaus, of West Point township; Lottie, the deceased wife of Conrad Jakel; Wilhelm, of West Point township; Sophia, the deceased wife of William Rhodenback; and Marie, the wife of Hico Folkers, of West Point township.

Henry Dralle was the first of the family to cross the Atlantic to the new world, arriving in 1878, when a youth of sixteen years. He first made his way to Grundy county, Iowa, and was employed by the month for three years, after which he came to Butler county. Here he again worked by the month as a farm hand for two years and for three years he rented land. During that period he carefully saved his earnings until his thrift and economy had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase eighty acres on section 24, West Point township. To this he has added from time to time as his financial resources have increased until he now has two hundred and forty acres in the home place on section 24, together with a farm of similar size on section 2. He personally operates both tracts of land successfully, carrying on general farming and stock-raising. The fields present a neat and thrifty appearance and give every indication of the practical and progressive methods of the owner.

On the 18th of February, 1888, Mr. Dralle was united in marriage to Miss Lottie Schmidt, who was born in Westphalen, Germany, January 9, 1867, and came to Butler county with the Dralle family when her future husband returned to Germany for his parents. They are own cousins and were schoolmates in the fatherland. In 1907 they made a trip back to the old country, spending two months there. They have had ten children: Minnie, the wife of Folkirt Folkers, of West Point township; Henry, also living in West Point township; Annie, the wife of Will Fick, of Jackson township; Willie, Mary, Lottie, August and Matie, all at home; Sophia, who died at the age of four months; and Herman, who completes the family.

In his political views Mr. Dralle is a democrat and he and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Dralle is

a self-made man and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. He came to the United States with his uncle, Conrad Wallbaum, who paid his passage, and Mr. Dralle had to work for a year in order to repay the money. He has seen many ups and downs in life and has met many hardships and difficulties, but at length has triumphed over these. That notable changes have occurred is shown in the fact that in early days he sold hogs for three dollars per hundred and oats for ten cents per bushel. He now has as good a farm as can be found in the county and receives substantial prices for his products. He bought his first land at twenty-five dollars per acre and at his last purchase, made three years ago, gave one hundred and thirteen dollars per acre, paying twenty-seven thousand dollars for his last farm of two hundred and forty acres, upon which his son Henry now resides. Although Mr. Dralle had a hard struggle in the early days, he enjoyed good health, was resolute and energetic and has steadily worked his way upward until he is now one of the prosperous farmers of the county, and all who know him acknowledge that his success is well merited.

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#### JOHN PIERSON NEAL.

John Pierson Neal occupies an attractive home in Clarksville situated in the midst of a forty acre tract of land within the corporate limits of the town, which he personally cultivates and improves. He is also the owner of two hundred and forty acres elsewhere in the county, which he leases. He is an energetic, wide-awake business man alert and progressive and his present success is the merited reward of his earnest and honest endeavor. He was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, April 4, 1846, and is a son of William and Rebecca (Murray) Neal, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Ohio. They were married in the Keystone state and in 1849 became residents of Green county, Wisconsin, where they remained for fifteen years. In 1864 John P. Neal arrived in Butler county, Iowa, and the following year was joined by the others of the family. The parents both died upon their farm in Jackson township, two and a half miles southwest of Clarksville, the mother passing away in 1868 and the father in January, 1889. He was a cabinet-maker and in the early days made all the coffins needed in his neighborhood. In this state he

carried on general farming and was the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land, from which he annually gathered good crops. His religious faith was that of the Baptist church and in politics he was a democrat. His family numbered ten children: Sarah Jane, now deceased; Lindsey Elziver, who died in 1910; Mrs. Delilah Ann Johnson and Mrs. Mary Ellen Morrison, both of whom have passed away; William A., living in Jackson township; Frances Caroline, who is the wife of J. Y. Tilford and resides with her brother, John; James Estep, of Clarksville; John Pierson; Robert Judson and Thomas Albert, both now deceased. All of the children reached adult age.

John P. Neal has made his home in or near Clarksville since 1864. He was a youth of eighteen when he arrived in this county. His education had been acquired in the schools of Wisconsin and he there became familiar with all branches of farm work. He resided on a farm in this county until 1900, when he left the old home place in Jackson township and took up his abode in Clarksville. He is still the owner of a tract of two hundred and forty acres on section 24, that township, which he brought under a high state of cultivation. He cleared away the stumps, brush and rocks and prepared the land for the plow, making the farm a richly productive one from which he annually gathered good harvests as a reward for the care and labor he bestowed upon the fields. He and his wife own one-half interest in the old homestead of the Telford estate consisting of two hundred and forty acres in Jackson and Butler townships. He also owns forty acres within the corporation limits and this he personally operates. He also conducted a dray and livery business in Clarksville in 1887. His life has been one of intense and well directed activity and what he has accomplished is the fitting reward of his labors, making him one of the substantial citizens of this part of the state.

Mr. Neal has been married twice. In 1873 he wedded Alvira Wamsley, who was born in this county, July, 1855, and died in August, 1885. To this union were born four children: Alice Myrtle, who died at the age of twenty-two years; May, who passed away at the age of one and a half years; Harlan Ray, twenty-two years of age at the time of his death; and one son who died in infancy. The eldest daughter had completed the third year work in the state normal school and afterward taught until her death. The son, Harlan, was a graduate of the Waterloo business college and was billing clerk for the Fowler wholesale house in Waterloo. In 1889 Mr. Neal was joined in wedlock to Miss Cora May Til-



ford, who was born in Benton county, Iowa, September 16, 1861, and remained there until nineteen years of age, when she went to Mediapolis, Iowa, where she spent two years. She is a daughter of John Young Tilford, a native of Indiana, who spent a greater part of his life at Vinton, Iowa, as a farmer. He died in Clarks-ville in 1912, after having resided there for several years. His widow, who was Frances Caroline Neal, now makes her home with her brother, John Pierson Neal. Unto our subject and his wife have been born one child, Mary Lavenia.

Politically Mr. Neal is a democrat. He has held no political offices, but for many years has been officially connected with the schools and does all in his power to further the interests of education. He and his wife and daughter are members of the Presbyterian church in which he is serving as an elder and he takes active and helpful part in the church work, being ever loyal to the teachings of the denomination. Honor and integrity have guided him in all of life's relations and have commanded for him the confidence, good-will and respect of those whom he has met.

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#### HERMAN SCHMADEKE.

Herman Schmadeke is a retired grain and lumber merchant of Clarksville, who owes his success not to any fortunate combination of circumstances or to the assistance of wealthy kinsmen, but to his own unaided efforts and business enterprise. He was born in Hanover, Germany, January 6, 1859, his parents being Frederick and Dorothy (Hasemeyer) Schmadeke, who came to the United States in 1871 with three of their children, one son having preceded the family to the new world. They settled in DuPage county, Illinois, and in 1876 Mr. Schmadeke went to Freeman township, Bremer county, Iowa, where he took up his abode on a farm, both he and his wife passing away on that place. He was a manufacturer of rope in the old country, but after coming to the new world continuously followed farming. He never took any active part in public affairs, devoting his time to his business interests and his family and to his duties as a member of the German Lutheran church. He was in his eightieth year at the time of his death, for he was born in 1814 and passed away December 8, 1893. His wife, who was born in 1824, died October 22, 1895. Their children were Frederick, who was born in November, 1851, and now lives

in Fremont township, Butler county; Henry, whose home is in Fremont township, Bremer county; Herman; and Louise, the wife of Frederick Stradtman, of Fremont township, Bremer county.

Herman Schmadeke was a youth of thirteen years when the family crossed the broad Atlantic. He remained under the parental roof until fifteen years of age and then began working by the month as a farm hand being thus employed for two years. He afterward learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for about twenty years, at the end of which time he entered the lumber and grain business. In 1884 he came to Butler county and has resided in Clarksville for thirty years. During seventeen years of that period he was engaged in the lumber and grain business and had three partners within that time. He built up an extensive trade, handling large amounts of grain and lumber each year, while his annual sales brought him a gratifying income. He is now practically living retired, although he takes some contracts for building. For four years he was also a representative of mercantile interests, conducting a general merchandise store which he afterward sold to his son. He has ever been a man of determined purpose, carrying forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken, and brooking no obstacles that could be overcome by persistent, energetic and honorable effort.

In 1886 Mr. Schmadeke was married to Miss Caroline Becker, who was born in Clayton county, Iowa, March 2, 1866, and came to this county with her parents in early childhood. She is a daughter of Ferdinand and Louise (Buchholz) Becker, natives of Germany, and now residents of Clarksville. Mr. and Mrs. Schmadeke have become the parents of six children: Alfred; Olinda, who died August 6, 1913, at the age of twenty-three years and five months; Bertha, a teacher in the rural schools of the county; Carrie, a high school graduate; Arthur; and Esther.

Mr. Schmadeke votes with the democratic party and his fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth, ability and public spirit, have called him to public office, his service as a member of the city council covering about ten years. For eight years he was also a member of the board of education and the school system of the county has found him a stalwart and helpful friend. He became one of the charter members of the Evangelical church of Clarksville and has served on its official board. The foregoing indicates that he is interested in all that pertains to the material, intellectual, social, political and moral development of the community. He has lived to see many changes in the county since he

arrived here. Land which could be purchased at a very low figure, today commands high prices for the country has become thickly settled. Mr. Schmadeke owns two good farms, one in this county and the other in North Dakota. He started out in life for himself empty-handed when fifteen years of age and gave his wages to his parents until he reached the age of twenty-five. All has not been smooth sailing. At times he has met hardships and difficulties, but he has never faltered and his industry and perseverance have at length brought him to the goal of success. He is proud of his adopted country and his citizenship here and he believes that every man in America has opportunity to make a good home if he is but industrious and honest. His own life is a verification of this belief and proves that success and an honest name may be won simultaneously.

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### THOMAS HUNT.

Thomas Hunt is the oldest resident of Clarksville and therefore no history of the town would be complete without extended reference to him. He participated in some of the troubles with the Indians here in the early days and knows every phase of pioneer life. He arrived in Butler county in 1854, so that almost six decades have since come and gone in which he has witnessed the changes wrought by time and men. A venerable citizen of eighty-one years, he was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, October 2, 1832, a son of Samuel and Sarah (Falconer) Hunt. The mother's birth occurred in the same township in which her son, Thomas, was born and her natal year was 1806. She was a representative of an old Virginia family. The father, Samuel, was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in 1800. His father, Thomas Hunt, was a native of New Jersey, whence he removed to Pittsburg, there organizing the first Presbyterian church of that city. Subsequently he went to Jefferson county, Ohio, where he engaged in preaching for twenty years at two different appointments, spending his last days in that county. The ancestry of the family can be traced still farther back. The Hunts came of English lineage, three brothers of the name having come to America in colonial days, settling in New Jersey and Virginia. Jonathan Hunt, the great grandfather of Thomas Hunt was born in England and after coming to the new world took part in the war for

independence, in which he was captured. In the maternal line Thomas Hunt comes of Holland Dutch ancestry and the family was early established in Virginia. Samuel Hunt and Sarah Falconer were married in Ohio and following his death, which occurred there when he was eighty years of age, she came to Iowa and spent her last days with her son, Thomas, passing away at the remarkable old age of ninety-four years. In the family were the following children: William and H. D., both deceased; Thomas; Mrs. Sarah Miller, now a widow living at Wilmont, Minnesota; Mrs. Mary Husband, a widow living at Shell Rock, Iowa; C. F., also of Shell Rock; Mrs. Minerva Nelson, a widow whose home is in Washington Springs, South Dakota, and Mrs. Elizabeth Fansaler, of Ohio.

Thomas Hunt spent the days of his boyhood and youth in Ohio and was a young man of twenty-one years, when in 1854 he came to this county. He settled in Butler township and has always made it his home, residing upon a farm until fifteen years ago, when he took up his abode in Clarksville. He is the owner of one hundred and eighty acres of rich and productive land on sections 10 and 11 and for about thirty years he was engaged in the live-stock business. He would purchase large herds of cattle in Minnesota and bring them to Iowa for sale. He also bought horses and mules in St. Louis and sold them in North Dakota. He was an excellent judge of live stock and thus his business affairs were carefully and profitably conducted.

On the 13th of February, 1856, Mr. Hunt was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Farlow, who was born in Boone county, Indiana, December 2, 1838, and when fifteen years of age came to this county with her parents, Abner and Sarah (Martin) Farlow, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Darke county, Ohio. They were married, however, in Indiana and spent their last days in Winterset, Madison county, Iowa. They had eight children, of whom six are living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hunt were born seven children: Sarah Etta, the deceased wife of Samuel Ren; U. F., a resident of Fesington, North Dakota; Charles A., of Milk River, Saskatchewan, Canada; Mary, the wife of Thomas Dougherty of Mission, Texas; Samuel, of Missoula, Montana; Lillian, the wife of D. J. Moore of Chicago; and T. A. of Comstock, Wisconsin.

In politics Mr. Hunt is a republican and has served as township trustee and as justice of the peace. He was also township school trustee and treasurer for a number of years, but his atten-

tion has been given mostly to his business affairs up to the time of his retirement. When he came to Iowa, this section of the state was largely undeveloped. The broad prairies were covered with an unbroken dazzling sheet of snow through the winter months while in June they were starred with a million wild flowers. Indians were still frequently seen in this part of Iowa and at times occasioned trouble to the settlers on the frontier, Mr. Hunt aiding in bringing them into subjection. It was an arduous task to break the sod, plant the crops and develop new fields, especially as the farm machinery of that day was by no means equal to that which we use at the present time. However, Mr. Hunt was persistent and energetic and as the years passed on he not only converted his own land into productive fields, but saw a marked change in the condition of the county and has ever rejoiced in what has been accomplished along the lines of progress and improvement.

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### EDWIN MORRILL.

Edwin Morrill has many important claims to respect and honor among his fellow citizens, for he is not only one of the prominent and substantial men of Butler county but he is also one of the early settlers in Iowa and one of the few surviving veterans of the Civil war men to whom the country owes a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid. He is now living retired in Greene, having won rest and leisure during forty-three years of close identification with agricultural interests of the locality. He was born in Piscataquis county, Maine, January 22, 1844, and is a son of Frederick Morrill, also a native of that locality. Frederick Morrill grew to manhood there, afterward following farming for a number of years. He later worked in a woolen mill for some time but in 1873 moved to Iowa, where he joined his son. He purchased a farm near Greene and continued active in its development until his death, which occurred in 1891, when he was seventy-eight years of age. His wife who was Dianona S. Lyford, a native of the same locality in Maine, survived him some years, dying at the home of her daughter in Minnesota in 1910. In the family there were ten children: Edwin of this review; Emma M., the deceased wife of H. L. Douglas; Minnie A., now the wife of H. L. Douglas, of



EDWIN MORRILL



Wadena, Minnesota; Frederick, Jr., deceased; William H. S., a resident of Wyndmere, North Dakota; and five younger children, all of whom died in infancy.

Edwin Morrill was reared in his native county, acquiring his education in the public schools. In 1862, when a young man of eighteen, he joined Company B, Twentieth Maine Volunteer Infantry, for service in the Civil war. Soon after its organization his regiment was sent south, where it joined McClellan's army. It was engaged in the battle of Antietam and afterward participated in all the battles of the Army of the Potomac, being present at General Lee's surrender in 1865. Mr. Morrill was wounded at Gettysburg, being shot in the left leg below the knee, and he was afterward in a hospital for four months. He later rejoined his regiment at Rappahannock and nine days before the close of the war was again wounded, being shot in the nose. He participated in the grand review at Washington. He was mustered out with his honorable discharge at Portland, Maine, and with a creditable military record returned home. He afterward worked in a woolen mill for five years but in 1870 moved to Iowa, locating first in Floyd county, where he rented land. He afterward purchased a quarter section of improved property, to which he later added one hundred and sixty acres adjoining. Upon this he erected a good residence and convenient barns and outbuildings and he continued active in the operation of the property until 1895. In that year he moved to Greene, where he purchased the comfortable residence in which he now resides. He was formerly a stockholder and director in the Merchants National Bank, of which he served as vice president for a number of years, and he was one of the promoters of the Greene Electric Light & Power Company. His name can always be found among the leaders in the support of any progressive public movement and his cooperation in community affairs is ready and hearty.

On Thanksgiving day, 1866, Mr. Morrill married Miss Addie A. Cass, who was born and reared in Piscataquis county, Maine. Mrs. Morrill died November 26, 1913. They became the parents of three children: Estella, the wife of G. W. Brunner, a business man and postmaster at Whittemore, Iowa; Herbert E., a resident of Aberdeen, South Dakota, where he is an engineer on the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad; and Anna, the wife of Fred Kivell, of Greene. Mr. Morrill attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a liberal supporter, and of which Mrs. Morrill was also a faithful attendant.



Fraternally Mr. Morrill is a blue lodge Mason and he is connected also with Greene Post, No. 200, G. A. R., of which he has served as commander. In June, 1913, he attended the reunion of the surviving participants of the battle of Gettysburg and received a knife, fork, spoon and metal plate as a souvenir of that memorable occasion. Mr. Morrill gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has held various positions of trust and responsibility, having served as township trustee of Pleasant Grove township, Floyd county. Since moving into Greene he has been elected mayor on two different occasions, his administrations being characterized by a great deal of progressive work for the benefit of the city. His interests are thoroughly identified with those of Butler county and of Greene and during many years his work has won him the high place which he now occupies among progressive and representative citizens.

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#### FRANK L. WITT.

Frank L. Witt of Shell Rock possesses much of the enterprising spirit characteristic of the middle west. He has long been identified with newspaper publication, and this has kept him in touch with those progressive interests which mark the upbuilding and development of the country. At the present time he is engaged with his son in various undertakings, and is accounted one of the worthy citizens of Shell Rock. He was born in Clarksville, October 7, 1860, a son of Ross Elden and Sarah C. (Burton) Witt, who were natives of Indiana. The mother came to this county with her parents when seven years of age, the family home being established near Clarksville. The parents of Ross E. Witt removed to Keokuk, Iowa, and subsequently to Bedford. He came to this county in 1859. It was on the 1st of January, 1860, in Butler county, that Ross E. Witt and Sarah C. Burton were married. Here they resided until 1878, when they went to Grand Forks, North Dakota, there remaining until 1887. They next became residents of Henry county, Missouri, and in 1889 returned to Butler county, taking up their abode on what was the old Burton homestead. Later they removed to Clarksville, where their remaining days were passed. They had three children: Frank L.; Mamie E., who became the wife of E. R. Waugh

and died in Missouri; and Adelaide, the wife of Richard H. Waugh, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work.

Frank L. Witt spent the first eighteen years of his life in his native county and then accompanied his parents to Grand Forks, where he was engaged in newspaper work until 1887. He next went to Henry county, Missouri, and was a traveling salesman for office supplies. He returned to this county and spent the winter of 1890, after which he removed to Superior, Wisconsin, where he engaged in newspaper work until the spring of 1892. In that year he returned to Grand Forks, where he continued in active connection with journalistic interests and also was engaged in the theatrical business until 1896. Through the succeeding year he was at Fargo, North Dakota, where he was connected with newspaper publication and in November, 1897, returned to Clarksville. He there continued his residence until December, 1900, when he purchased the Shell Rock News.

Some time later he admitted his elder son to a partnership and later sold out to him. In 1905 Mr. Witt was appointed deputy collector of internal revenue and filled that office for eight consecutive years. In politics he has been a life long republican, unfaltering in support of the party.

On the 4th of November, 1880, Mr. Witt was united in marriage to Miss Vashti C. M. Griggs, who was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in May, 1862, and was reared there and in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The family afterward removed to Grand Forks, where her father, John Griggs, became a prominent steamboat man. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Witt were born two sons; Charles E. and Fred B., both born at Grand Forks, North Dakota. The latter is engaged in the grain, lumber and coal business in Shell Rock. The former, born April 8, 1882, has always been connected with the newspaper business, acting as assistant to his father for a long period, during which time he thoroughly acquainted himself with the work of newspaper publication in principle and detail. Soon after his father purchased the Shell Rock News he became an equal partner in its ownership, and in 1910 he purchased the paper, of which he is now sole owner and proprietor. This is a bright, newsy sheet, carefully edited, and its circulation is a large and growing one, owing to the enterprising methods followed by Mr. Witt. In 1910 Charles Witt was appointed postmaster at Shell Rock and his term expired in January, 1914. He gave efficient service during his administration. On the 19th of May, 1906, he wedded Maude L. Waite, a

native of Belvidere, Illinois, and a daughter of Judson Waite. Fraternally he is connected with the Elks, the Masons and the Knights of Pythias, and his political support is given to the republican party.

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### W. F. RAY.

It has been said that banking institutions are the heart of the commercial body indicating the healthfulness of trade. It is a well known fact that a safe, reliable and conservative banking institution does more to establish public confidence in times of widespread financial panic than any other single agency. The course followed in the State Bank of Allison has ever been one which commends itself to the public and as its guiding spirit, William F. Ray has made a splendid record. In other business connections, too, he is widely and favorably known and his labors have been an important event in promoting the material progress and substantial upbuilding of Butler county. He was born at Shell Rock, February 9, 1869, a son of John W. and Emma R. (Bartholemew) Ray. The father's birth occurred in Mahoning county, Ohio, in April, 1840, and when he was three years of age he was taken by his widowed mother to Cedar Falls, Iowa, the husband and father having died during the infancy of his son, John W. The latter spent his school days in Cedar Falls and in early manhood engaged in the milling business as an employe, but with the outbreak of the Civil war he put aside all business and personal considerations and enlisted in 1861 as a member of Company B, Thirty-first Iowa Infantry. This company was organized at Cedar Falls and he remained in the service for four years, veteranizing on the expiration of a three years' term. When hostilities had ceased he was honorably discharged and returned to his home with a most creditable military record. He continued a resident of Cedar Falls until the spring of 1867, when he removed to Shell Rock where he engaged in the milling business until 1879, owning and operating both mills during that period. He was then elected to the office of county treasurer and resided at Butler Center, then the county seat, for a year. In 1880 the county seat was removed to Allison and he continued his official duties at that point, remaining in the office of county treasurer for two terms and retiring from the position as he had entered it—with the confidence and good-will of all.

He entered the banking business in Allison in 1882, continuing to conduct a private and state bank until his death which occurred September 7, 1907, at the age of sixty-seven years. His business record was as creditable as was his official service, over which there fell no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. In politics he was a republican and was always interested in matters of progressive citizenship. He served for a number of years on the board of education and the public schools found in him a stalwart friend. He was also an exemplary Mason and attained the Knights Templar degree in Cedar Falls Commandery. Allison and Butler county mourned the loss of one of its prominent, valued and honored citizens when he was called to the home beyond. His widow still resides in Allison. Their family numbered four children: William F.; Cora R., who is the widow of Horace A. Foote, who now resides in Allison; Frank J., cashier of the State Bank of Allison; and Lulu R., the wife of C. G. Burling, of Clarksville.

William F. Ray has been a life long resident of this county and here and in Hampton, Iowa, acquired his public-school education supplemented by a course in the Bayless Business College at Dubuque, Iowa. He entered his father's bank as an employe and later was engaged in the lumber business for a year. In partnership with G. M. Craig, in 1887, he organized the abstract business of Craig & Ray and the partnership relation was maintained until 1902, when they incorporated the business under the style of The Craig-Ray Abstract Company. Mr. Ray continued as vice president until 1910, when he sold out. About 1898 his father had admitted him and his brother, F. J. Ray, as partners in the banking business under the style of J. W. Ray & Sons. This was the first bank of Allison. They continued as partners until 1902, when the bank was incorporated under the state banking laws as the State Bank of Allison. William F. Ray remained as vice president until his father's death when he succeeded to the presidency. He has also been president of the Citizen's State Bank at Bristow, Iowa, since his father's death and has been interested in that bank since 1897 as a stockholder. He is likewise a director of the Butler County State Bank at Clarksville and in 1912 he and his brother erected the new Allison hotel. In addition to his realty holdings in the city, he has one thousand acres of farm land in this county. He is one of the most substantial citizens of this section of the state and while wisely and successfully promoting

his individual interests, he also conducts his affairs in such a manner that public prosperity is enhanced.

Mr. Ray has been twice married. In 1895 he wedded Laura Youngblood, a native of Indiana, who died in November, 1908, leaving three children: Roberta M., Lucile and Bernice. In 1909 Mr. Ray wedded Olive H. Timmons, a native of Dubuque county, who was then a widow with one child, Matilda Jane, who has now taken her stepfather's name. Mr. Ray has always been interested in the upbuilding of the town and the surrounding country. He erected two beautiful homes in Allison and has done much to improve the city along substantial lines. The bank of which he is president owns its own building, which is a substantial structure equipped with modern conveniences and every accessory to safeguard the interests of the depositors.

In politics Mr. Ray is a republican. In 1895 he was elected mayor of the city and something of the character of his official career is indicated in the fact that he was reelected for four successive terms thereafter. For five years he served as a member of the school board and he was on the building committee when in 1912, a new school house was erected at a cost of twenty thousand dollars. In 1908 he was made presidential elector from the third congressional district of Iowa. While managing extensive and important business interests, he never neglects duties of citizenship and has made a most creditable and honorable record in all of life's relations.

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#### A. W. JOHNSON.

A. W. Johnson, widely known as a capable, prominent and successful contractor and builder of Allison, has made his home in this county since 1883 and for twenty-eight years has lived in the county seat. He was born in Monroe, Ogle county, Illinois, November 20, 1860, and is a son of John and Grace (Hagemeyer) Johnson, both of whom were natives of Ost Friesland, Hanover, Germany, where they were married. Two children were born unto them ere they came to the new world. They settled in Ogle county, Illinois, in 1873 and Mr. Johnson there spent his remaining days, his death occurring upon the home farm in 1880. Two years later the mother came to Iowa to live with her children and passed away in 1890. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were born five

sons and a daughter: Herman, who is living on the old home-  
stead in West Point township; Mrs. Jennie Roalf, deceased; A.  
W.; Frank, of Emmet county, Iowa; Henry, a resident of Minne-  
sota; and John, also of Emmet county. All of the sons are pros-  
perous farmers with the exception of A. W. Johnson, who has  
devoted the greater part of his life to building pursuits.

He was twenty-one years of age at the time of his father's  
death and in 1883, when twenty-three years of age, came to But-  
ler county. He was reared upon the farm and when he started  
out in life on his own account it was as an agriculturist, but he  
had learned the carpenter's trade when a boy and for the past  
twenty-eight years has followed that pursuit with the exception  
of the time which he devoted to political office. He is now widely  
known as a contractor and builder and something of the volume  
of his business and of his success is indicated in the fact that he  
employs from eight to fourteen men. His work has stamped  
him as a master in his chosen field. He conducts a general con-  
tracting and building business, furnishes plans and specifications,  
superintends construction, and during the long period of his resi-  
dence in Allison has erected some of the finest homes in the city  
and county. He has also built a number of business blocks and  
public buildings and his work always gives satisfaction because of  
the thoroughness with which it is done, the excellence of the ma-  
terials used and the honesty of his business methods.

Mr. Johnson has been married three times. In 1884 he wedded  
Miss Anna Pals, a native of Illinois and of Holland parentage.  
She died in 1888, leaving a daughter, Grace, who is now the wife  
of Clint Miller, of Minnesota. In 1894 he married Miss Carrie  
Woodward, a native of Butler county. She died in 1897, leaving  
a daughter, Pearl, who resides at Greene, Butler county. In 1902  
Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Clara Mead, a native  
of Butler county and a daughter of Henry C. and Julia Mead.  
The father and mother are now deceased, the mother passing away  
in August, 1913. One child, Alberta, has been born to Mr. and Mrs.  
Johnson.

In politics Mr. Johnson is an earnest and stalwart republican  
and for a period of five years, from 1901 to 1906, he filled the office  
of sheriff of his county. Fraternally he is connected with the  
Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows and is loyal  
to the beneficent spirit and high purposes of those organizations.  
He has always led a busy and useful life and has just completed

the new German Lutheran church at Allison. Most of the best buildings in Allison and this section of the county stand as monuments to his skill and enterprise. His record as a man and citizen is commendable and the warm regard in which he is held indicates that his has been an upright life.

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### WILLIAM S. AUSTIN.

Probably no man is better known throughout Butler county as a successful stock dealer and breeder than William S. Austin, who operates the Oak Glen Stock Farm of five hundred and sixty acres on section 10, Madison township. He was born in Washington township, this county, October 15, 1877, and is a son of William Austin, a native of England, who came to America with his father, Henry Austin, in 1846. Henry Austin located with his family near Detroit, Michigan, and five years later moved to Wisconsin, locating in Grant county, where his son William grew to manhood. In 1870 the latter moved to Iowa and located in Washington township, Butler county, where he purchased a tract of raw land, breaking the soil and opening up a new farm. He there married Miss Charlotte Smith, who passed away in Washington township. William Austin, Sr., became a well known farmer and stock breeder and accumulated extensive landed holdings in Madison and Washington townships. After his wife's death he continued on the farm until 1909 and then moved to Cedar Falls and later to Aplington, where he now resides.

William S. Austin, one of a family of five children, of whom two are still living, was reared in Washington township, supplementing a public-school education by two years at Ellsworth College and attendance at the State Normal School at Cedar Falls. Following the completion of his studies he engaged in teaching for two terms in Butler county and after his marriage, which occurred in 1903, he took possession of the Oak Glen Stock Farm, upon which he has since resided. Upon it he has made excellent improvements, erecting a good residence and substantial barns and outbuildings, including a one hundred and twenty ton silo, which was erected in 1911. He has fenced and cross fenced his fields with seven miles of woven wire fencing and has neglected nothing which would add to the appearance or value of his place. Mr. Austin is a well known stock breeder, dealing principally in

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WILLIAM S. AUSTIN



MRS. WILLIAM S. AUSTIN

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Aberdeen Angus cattle, Poland China hogs and Angora goats. He has a fine herd of eighty head of cattle with a pure-blooded male, Ex. 111595, of the Trojan Erica family, at the head. Mr. Austin has sold and shipped many pure-blooded animals to other states and does an extensive business, being considered an expert judge of stock values and one of the leading breeders in the state. He makes an annual public sale of Poland China hogs and deals also to some extent in Angora goats and Barred Plymouth Rock chickens. He is one of the promoters of the Butler County Telephone Company and served as president of this association for several years.

On the 22d of March, 1903, in Humboldt county, Mr. Austin was united in marriage to Miss Florence Rigby, who was born and reared in Cedar county, Iowa, and educated at the Mechanicsville high school and the State Normal School, later engaging in teaching in South English and Livermore, Iowa. She was assistant principal at the latter place. Mr. and Mrs. Austin are the parents of four children: S. Ralph, Lewis H., Edwin G., and Charlotte M. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Dumont, and Mr. Austin is one of the official board. He has been connected with educational interests of this locality for a number of years, taking an active and prominent part in the advancement of the public-school system. He is a practical and successful farmer and a conservative and able business man, and he has the esteem and confidence of the entire community.

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### EUGENE OWEN.

On the roster of county officials appears the name of Eugene Owen, of Allison, who is now serving as county auditor, in which connection he is making a creditable record. He was born in Dayton township, Butler county, August 24, 1875, and is a son of William R. and Paulina V. (McNames) Owen, the former born in Wisconsin, January 1, 1849, and the latter in Michigan, November 5, 1851. They came with their respective parents to Butler county and were married here. Mrs. Owen died upon the home farm January 31, 1907, and Mr. Owen still resides upon the farm, being numbered among the worthy and representative agriculturists of the community. His political indorsement is given

to the republican party. He and his wife became the parents of two children, the elder being Jennie F., now the wife of Thomas J. Shafer, sheriff of Butler county.

Eugene Owen was reared in the usual manner of farm lads and remained on the old homestead with his parents until he attained his majority. He attended the district schools and afterward the Clarksville high school and business college. Upon starting out in life on his own account he took up the occupation to which he had been reared and continued to engage in farming until elected to the office of county auditor on the 5th of November, 1912. He entered upon the duties of this position on the 1st of January following and has made a record creditable to himself, to the republican party which elected him and to the county at large. He had previously served as clerk of Dayton township for two terms and while living in that township he was elected chairman of the republican county central committee. He is still the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land on sections 14 and 24, Dayton township, and from his farm derives a gratifying and substantial income. In 1896 occurred the marriage of Mr. Owen to Miss Lydia E. Ransom, who was born in Jackson township, March 11, 1877, a daughter of C. M. and Ruth Ellen (Beetle) Ransom. The mother is now deceased but the father still resides on the old home place in Jackson township. Mr. and Mrs. Owen have one child, Gail M. Mr. Owen belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He has been a lifelong resident of the county and that his record is a creditable one is indicated by his extensive circle of friends. He is now proving himself an efficient officer and one to whom the county may safely look for the careful protection of its interests.

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#### AARON MOSS.

Aaron Moss, one of the few surviving veterans of the Civil war and a resident of Butler county since 1855, was born in Carroll county, Indiana, August 2, 1842. He is a son of Rev. Phillip Moss, who was minister of a church in Indiana for a number of years. In 1855 he moved with his family to Iowa, settling on a farm in Coldwater township near Greene. He was afterward active in church work here, preaching over a large district and becoming well known as a zealous and conscientious minister. He died upon

his farm in 1859 and was survived by his wife only a short time. They were the parents of a large family of children, seven of whom grew to maturity.

Aaron Moss was reared in Coldwater township and acquired his education in the common schools. On the 3d of February, 1862, he enlisted, becoming a member of Company A, Twenty-first Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He participated in many of the most important engagements of the Civil war, including that of Hartsville, Missouri, and Vicksburg, and he commanded the company for some time. He was present at the engagements at Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely and he later joined Banks expedition up the Red river to Shreveport. He became first sergeant. Upon the close of the war he received his honorable discharge and returned to Iowa, where he afterward engaged in farming for a few years. When he abandoned this line of occupation he turned his attention to the general merchandising business and some years later began buying and shipping stock. He was, however, a brick and stone mason by trade, and eventually he concentrated his attention upon this work, following it for many years thereafter. He took up his residence in Greene and assisted in the construction of most of the brick business houses in the town and a number of the more important residences. In his early days he was a well known vocalist and taught a singing school for a number of years. He was, besides, a member of the church choir and its leader for some time.

In Greene, on the 24th of December, 1865, Mr. Moss married Miss Margaret A. Sturtz, a native of Pennsylvania, who moved to Iowa. She passed away in October, 1902, leaving six children: Elmer; Fred; Dr. Solomon, a dentist in Sheffield; William; Mrs. Edward Barth of Greene; and Mrs. Maud Runyon of Council Bluffs, Iowa. On the 20th of October, 1904, Mr. Moss was again married, his second wife being Mrs. Sarah Shepard, who was born in Pennsylvania. When she was ten years of age she moved with her parents to Illinois and later came to Iowa. She had three sons by her former marriage: William, of Kansas City, Missouri; David, of Osage, Iowa; and Charles, of Clarksville, Iowa.

Fraternally Mr. Moss is identified with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which he has served through all the chairs and is now past grand and past district deputy. He was for two years president of the Regimental Association of the Twenty-first Iowa and is now serving as vice president of that body. He was appointed as a member of the Vicksburg National Park Commission by the governor of Iowa,

but had to decline on account of his wife's health. He has been very prominent in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic, both locally and nationally. He is a member of Greene Post, No. 200, G. A. R., in which he has filled all of the offices. He has been adjutant and commander of the post and is at present chaplain. He was formerly aide-de-camp on the department commander's staff and was also aide-de-camp on the staff of the commander-in-chief. He and his wife are devout members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Moss is one of the well known men of Greene, having been identified with the growth and development of the city for many years, gaining in the course of a long, useful and honorable life the esteem and confidence of the entire community.

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#### DR. RAYMOND S. BLAIR.

For ten years Dr. Raymond S. Blair has been one of the successful physicians of Parkersburg and he has not only attained prominence along professional lines, but also has actively participated in the public life of the city, having been elected three times to the mayor's chair and now serving in that position, attaining gratifying results in the interests of his fellow citizens. Dr. Blair was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, March 28, 1877, and is a son of James C. and Elizabeth (Johnson) Blair, natives of Kentucky, the former born in 1840 and the latter in 1843. The father's occupation is that of a farmer. His wife passed away in 1899, leaving two children, Raymond S. and Walter B.

Until twelve years of age Raymond S. Blair attended school in Harrison county and then went to Ogden, Utah, there continuing his lessons for three years. At the end of that time he went to Harrison county, Iowa, taking an advanced school course. He then removed to Des Moines, Iowa, where he took up the study of osteopathy in the S. S. Still College of Osteopathy, graduating January 26, 1902. He then established himself in practice in Des Moines, there continuing for two years, and then moved to Grundy Center. In that city he remained for only two months and then came to Parkersburg, Iowa. He was successful from the start and has since been attending to an ever increasing practice.

On December 25, 1906, at Chicago, Illinois, Dr. Blair married Miss Sue Alice Goodwin, a daughter of A. H. and Isabelle Good-

win. The former served during the Civil war as captain of Company A, One Hundred and Forty-sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Dr. and Mrs. Blair have one daughter, Elizabeth Alice, born November 18, 1910.

Politically Dr. Blair is a republican and always has interested himself in the welfare of his party. He was a republican committeeman to the congressional convention of the Third Iowa district, held at Waterloo, Iowa. In 1908 he was elected mayor of Parkersburg and his administration was so successful that he was reelected in 1910 and again in 1912, now serving in that important office. He has inaugurated and supported many beneficial reforms and he is leaving the impress of his progressive ideas upon the city. Dr. Blair is president of the First Twenty-two Club and has served for the past three years. Fraternally he is a Mason and belongs to the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. His religious faith is that of the Congregational church. Dr. Blair owns his residence, where both he and his wife charmingly entertain their many friends. He is widely known not only in Parkersburg but in Butler county and in professional as well as political circles enjoys great confidence and the good-will and regard of the general public.

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### GEORGE W. STAUFFER.

George W. Stauffer, one of the active and progressive farmers of Coldwater township, owning and operating two hundred and thirty-five acres of valuable land on section 7, has been a resident of Butler county since 1883 and during the intervening period has been closely connected with agricultural interests. He was born in Westmoreland county, near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, December 17, 1860, and is a son of John T. Stauffer, also a native of that locality, where he was reared and educated. He married there Miss Susan Strickler, also a native of the Keystone state, and he engaged in farming in Westmoreland county for a number of years. He later moved to Butler county, this state, settling in Coldwater township, where he became a prosperous agriculturist.

George W. Stauffer was reared upon the home farm in Westmoreland county and remained with his father until after he attained his majority. He acquired an excellent education in the



common schools of his native county and later attended Mount Pleasant College at Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania. He afterward engaged in teaching. He came to Butler county in 1883 and located on land owned by his father, on section 6, Coldwater township. This he farmed and improved for a number of years, after which he moved to Kansas, preempting land in Rush county. When he sold this property he returned to Iowa, renting land for a few years. Afterward he purchased a portion of the property upon which he now resides and from time to time bought more land until he is now in possession of two hundred and thirty-five acres on section 7. He owns also a farm of two hundred acres five miles north of his home, in Floyd county. Mr. Stauffer engages in general farming and is also extensively interested in stock-raising, keeping a fine herd of graded cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs. He also does some dairy business and is a stockholder in the Greene Cooperative Creamery Association. He is interested also in the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company and has an excellent reputation in business circles.

On the 9th of April, 1883, Mr. Stauffer was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Heselroad, a daughter of William Heselroad, a native of Germany and one of the pioneers in Butler county. He was for many years a prosperous farmer of Coldwater township. Mr. and Mrs. Stauffer have become the parents of nine children: May, who married Fred Kuhn, of Floyd county, by whom she has two children: Albert, who is engaged in farming in Floyd county; Edith, the wife of Charles De Long, of Allison; Edna; John; Ruth; Victor; Ethel; and Fern. Mr. and Mrs. Stauffer are members of the Greene Methodist Episcopal church and both are active Sunday-school workers. Mr. Stauffer is an industrious and prosperous farmer and a careful and conservative business man, and he is held in high esteem wherever he is known.

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### SAMUEL THOMAS.

Samuel Thomas, one of the first merchants in Greene and since 1871 prominently connected with business interests of the city, where he is now a successful dealer in real estate, was born in Canton, Bradford county, Pennsylvania, January 29, 1848. He is a son of Zenas and Maria (Carpenter) Thomas, the former a native of New York state and the latter of Pennsylvania. Zenas

Thomas engaged in business in Canton for some years but in 1860 moved to Iowa, locating in Chickasaw county, where he turned his attention to farming, following this occupation until his death, which occurred in 1881. His wife survived him for a number of years.

Samuel Thomas accompanied his parents to Chickasaw county in 1860 and he grew up on his father's farm there, acquiring his education in the public schools and in Bradford Academy. He later removed to Floyd county, where he engaged in teaching for two years. In 1871 he moved to Greene and here Mr. Thomas of this review built a business house and put in a stock of hardware and implements, having the distinction of being the first man to sell goods over a counter in the city. For over twenty years he conducted the hardware and implement business and his patronage increased steadily in volume and importance as his straightforward business methods and high standards became more widely known. For some years past he has given a great deal of attention to dealing in real estate, handling Iowa and Dakota lands. He has valuable private holdings, for he built and owns an excellent brick business block with two large store rooms on the lower floor and offices on the upper. Mr. Thomas has developed two editions to the town of Greene called Thomas' first and second additions, and has erected a number of residences in the city. He is known as a farsighted and able business man and his success is well deserved, rewarding many years of earnest and persistent work.

In Floyd county, on the 20th of October, 1879, Mr. Thomas married Miss Armida Antoinette Pratt, who was born in Illinois and reared in Chickasaw county, Iowa, where she engaged in teaching for two years. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas became the parents of six children: Maud, the wife of L. P. Stephens, of Greene; Mrs. Gertrude Shaw, a widow residing in Chicago; S. Z., who is engaged in farming in Wolf Point, Montana; Dr. Alice, a graduate of the State Normal School, Mount Vernon College and the medical department of the University of Illinois; Mary, who died at the age of twelve; and Merta, who passed away in early childhood.

Mr. Thomas gives his political allegiance to the progressive wing of the republican party. In 1883 he was elected treasurer of Butler county, winning reelection at the end of his first term. He has also served as a delegate to numerous county and state conventions. He is a Master Mason and a member of the blue lodge. For the past forty-two years he has been a resident of

Greene and during that time has been active in inaugurating and shaping the business development of the city which counts him among its most progressive and representative citizens.

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### OSCAR C. PERRIN.

Since 1887 Oscar C. Perrin has been connected with the First State Bank of Greene and through successive stages of progress and advancement has risen to the position of president of the institution. He holds a place of distinctive precedence in financial circles of the city and has been carried forward into other important relations, being connected with some of the leading corporate concerns of this section of the state. He was born in Butler county, near Clarksville, January 24, 1868, and is a son of Jeremiah and Anna (Hillman) Perrin, natives of England. As a young man the father emigrated to America and settled first in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, whence in 1851 he moved west to Iowa, locating in Butler county. He purchased a tract of unimproved land near Clarksville and this he improved with a good residence and substantial barns and outbuildings. From time to time he purchased more land and was a very extensive property owner at the time of his death, which occurred in 1905. He and his wife were the parents of two sons: Oscar C., of this review; and M. J., who resides in Waterloo, Iowa.

Oscar C. Perrin was reared upon the home farm in this county and supplemented a common-school education by a course in the Clarksville high school. He began his independent career as a banker, having assisted in the organization of the Clarksville State Bank, of which he served as vice president. In 1887 he moved to Greene and immediately afterward secured a position in the First National Bank, which was later reorganized as the First State Bank of Greene. For a time Mr. Perrin served as assistant book-keeper and was advanced from this position to that of cashier, an office in which he did capable and farsighted work for a number of years. In 1903 he was elected president of the institution and in this capacity has since served. In this position his initiative spirit and organizing power have been called forth and his work has been one of the leading factors in making the bank one of the strong moneyed institutions of Butler county. He gives a great deal of time to its affairs but he has also other important connec-



OSCAR C. PERRIN

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION  
125 WEST 4TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

tions, being a stockholder in the lumber and implement business operated by Cave, Sproul & Company. He was a promoter of the Greene Electric Light & Power Company, in which he is still a stockholder and director, and he has large real-estate interests, owning several well improved farms in this county. He has proven himself a reliable, capable and farsighted business man and has an enviable reputation in business circles.

Mr. Perrin has been twice married. In December, 1893, he married Miss Maude Mason, a native of Ohio. Mrs. Perrin died in 1904. In Greene, in January, 1907, Mr. Perrin was again married, Miss Mary Debbin, who was born, reared and educated in this city, becoming his bride. Mr. and Mrs. Perrin reside in an attractive residence on the east side of the city and are well known in social circles. Mr. Perrin gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served as a member of the board of aldermen and on the school board. Fraternally he is a Master Mason and he and his wife belong to the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Perrin is connected also with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has served through all the chairs of the Knights of Pythias. He is a man of sterling worth and high integrity and well deserves the esteem and regard in which he is uniformly held.

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### THOMAS A. HOBSON, M. D.

For nearly a quarter of a century Dr. Thomas A. Hobson has practiced medicine in Parkersburg and during that time has gained an extensive and representative patronage. He was born in Poweshiek county, Iowa, February 1, 1864, and is a son of William B. and Mary (Caldwell) Hobson, the former born in Steubenville, Ohio, and the latter in Ireland. The father was a millwright and farmer. He came to Iowa about 1858 and made this state his residence until his death, which occurred about 1893. All who knew him respected and honored him and he stood high in the estimation of the general public. In the family of William B. Hobson were nine children: James C.; Rebecca; Eliza; Joseph C.; Benjamin F.; John W.; Abraham J.; William, who died in infancy; and Thomas A., our subject.

Thomas A. Hobson attended school in Franklin county, continuing his preparatory course at the Friends Academy at Le-

grand, Iowa. He received his professional training at the Iowa State University, graduating from the medical department on March 6, 1889, with the degree of M. D. Shortly thereafter in the same year he opened an office in Parkersburg and has ever since been engaged in general practice, attaining a high degree of success. He conducts a private hospital, well appointed and equipped for all emergencies that may arise. He is deeply interested in his profession and keeps well in touch with the latest discoveries in scientific research. Careful in diagnosis, he is decided after reaching a conclusion and is seldom if ever at fault in applying the remedy which the case on hand may demand. Moreover, he inspires that confidence which is so necessary to effect a cure and in many families is not only the trusted physician but is considered as their truest friend. Dr. Hobson is interested in anything that tends to bring to man the key to that complex mystery which we call life and his reading is broad and comprehensive, so that his knowledge and efficiency have continually advanced.

At Bristow, Iowa, July 2, 1889, Dr. Hobson was united in marriage to Miss Anna M. Anderson, a daughter of Benjamin and Margaret (McKernan) Anderson. Dr. and Mrs. Hobson have adopted a son, William Thomas Hobson. The Doctor and his wife reside in their own home, which is renowned for its open-hearted hospitality. In politics the Doctor is a republican but has never cared to enter the arena of active public life although he served as health officer of Albion township for one term. His religious faith is that of the Methodist church and, interested in Sunday-school work, he served for several years as superintendent. He is a trustee of his church. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America. As one of the long-established physicians of Parkersburg, Dr. Hobson enjoys the highest confidence and regard and well merits the esteem which is generally conceded him.

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### CYRUS DOTY.

Cyrus Doty was one of the venerable, worthy and highly respected residents of Butler county, his home being not far from Clarksville, on section 14, Jackson township. He was the first white child born in Ogle county, Illinois, his natal day being September 4, 1834. His parents were Elisha and Hannah (Reed)

Doty. The father was born in Pennsylvania, September 7, 1806, and was a son of Cornelius Doty, who was born in New Jersey in 1779. He was married in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, to Catherine Sutton and they had two sons, Elisha and James. The mother died soon after the birth of the younger and Cornelius Doty married again and had quite a large family, including Cornelius, who was born in Athens county, Ohio, July 25, 1824, and was a soldier of the Mexican war, enlisting in Company A, Sixteenth Illinois Regiment, and afterward reenlisting May 25, 1861, for service in the Civil war as a member of Company I, Seventeenth Illinois Regiment. He was married in 1848, reared a large family and died at Columbus Grove, Ohio, May 4, 1893. Another son of the second marriage, Samuel Doty, was also a soldier of the Civil war, after which he went to California, where his remaining days were spent. The Doty family removed westward, became pioneer settlers of Illinois and soon after the Black Hawk war Cornelius Doty, Sr., removed to Texas, traveling across the country with wagons. He did not remain long, however, but returned to Peoria, where he died in 1842, at the age of sixty-three years.

Elisha Doty, the father of Cyrus Doty, was but an infant when his parents removed westward from Pennsylvania to Peoria, Illinois. When in young manhood he went to Ogle county, where he became interested in milling and merchandising and in the grain and live-stock business. He went through all of the experiences of pioneer life. In 1824 he and another young man walked from Peoria to the lead mines near Galena with a view of finding work, hiring Indians to ferry them across Rock river. Neither were experienced in mining so did not long remain, but returned to Peoria, where Elisha Doty took up the occupation of farming. In 1828 he married Hannah Reed, who was born in New York, October 10, 1808. They became the parents of six children, two of whom were born at Peoria: Samuel, in 1830; James, July 10, 1832; Cyrus, September 4, 1834; Aaron, January 8, 1836; Louisa, May 12, 1837; and Lavina. In the summer of 1832 Elisha Doty made his way to Buffalo Grove, Ogle county, with a view of establishing his home there. The Indians, however, were so threatening that he remained but a short time, deeming it best to return to Peoria. The Black Hawk war was soon declared and was continued until 1833. In the spring of 1834 Mr. Doty made a second attempt to secure a home at Buffalo Grove. He did not enlist for service but was drafted and remained in readiness at



Peoria to go to the front if the call came. His brother, James, who joined the army, was killed at the battle of Stillman's Run.

When peace was restored Elisha Doty brought his family to Ogle county, where they underwent many of the hardships and privations common to pioneer life. They had experiences with prairie fires, with the Indians and with wild animals. Mr. Doty found a bee tree, which he was carefully guarding for his own use. On one occasion he found that the Indians were near it, but as they saw Mr. Doty approach they ran away. He discovered that they had cut down the bee tree and had the honey done up in a deer skin, beside which were two guns. He took one of the guns and retreated a little distance. Soon the Indians came back and missed their gun. Mr. Doty motioned them to come to him, but they took the honey on two ponies and made their escape. He sent them word to come and pay for the honey and get their gun, but they never did so. In the early days the settlers were troubled with a large gray wolf that proved so destructive that they all agreed together to pay ten dollars each to the man who would kill the wolf. For some time Mr. Doty had a trap set, but without avail. At length he placed his trap at a point where beef had been butchered. It was securely tied to a poll ten feet long and a cow bell tied to the other end. About ten o'clock Mrs. Doty heard the bell ringing and Mr. Doty, calling two men to his assistance, went for the wolf, which had dragged the poll and bell twenty-five rods. The animal was soon dispatched and placed in a wagon and the next morning Mr. Doty drove around among the neighbors showing that he had killed the wolf and most of them paid the ten dollar bounty. Mrs. Doty became ill and sent her son Cyrus to call her husband, who was at work hauling wood. Mr. Doty went for Dr. Benton, two miles away, and he bled her in the arm according to the methods of the time, but she grew worse and the next day Elisha Doty started for Dixon to call Dr. Everts. He reached the Rock river just at night and was told the ice was unsafe for a horse, but attempted to lead his horse across. He proceeded only a short distance when the horse went through the ice, but help soon came and the animal was saved. Mr. Doty then walked across the river, found Dr. Everts and with him returned to his home, but the mother's condition was such that she could not be saved.

In 1842 Elisha Doty was a second time married, Catharine Jones becoming his wife. They had seven children who reached adult age, and those now living are: Salina, of Charles City,

Iowa; Angeline, of Osage City, Kansas; Mrs. Marion Stone, of Oklahoma; Erastus, of Clarksville; and Mrs. Alice Matcham, of Packard, Iowa. Those deceased were Mrs. Harriet Kellogg, of Montour, Iowa, and Mrs. Ida Ornsdorf, of Watonga, Indian Territory. There were also two children who died in early life and the mother passed away at Charles City, Iowa, September 12, 1902. Although the family experienced many of the privations of pioneer life, Elisha Doty prospered in his business affairs as the years went on. He was one of the builders of the first stone windmill at Polo and as time passed on became an active factor in milling and merchandising and in the grain and stock business. When the panic of 1857 came on he threw his possessions into the breach and prevented much financial disaster to his neighbors. In 1866 he removed to Tama county, Iowa, where his death occurred December 16, 1893, his last days being spent in Montour.

Cyrus Doty remained in Ogle county, Illinois, until the 1st of August, 1860, when he came to Butler county, Iowa, locating on the farm on which he spent his remaining days, his death occurring February 15, 1912. He had a good business education and made farming his principal life work. He owned three hundred and twenty acres of land, which he converted into rich and productive fields, deriving therefrom a substantial income.

On the 12th of March, 1856, Mr. Doty was united in marriage to Miss Charlotte Aplington, who was born in Sanford, Broome county, New York, July 20, 1836, and at sixteen years of age went to Polo, Ogle county, Illinois, with her parents, James and Sarah Jane (Anthony) Aplington. Her father died at Aplington, Iowa, a town which he and his brother Zenath had founded. Mrs. Doty was one of a family of eight children, four of whom are now living, and by her marriage she became the mother of twelve children: Samuel N., who died at the age of forty-six years; William N., of this county; Mary, at home; Edith, the wife of Mitchell McDonald, of Stillwater, Oklahoma; Charles, living in Osage, Iowa; James, who died in infancy; Nellie Marietta, the wife of Charles N. Richards, of Zion City, Illinois; Rose, who is the widow of W. C. Guptell and lives with her mother; Simon Harvey, of Stillwater, Oklahoma; Lillian Catharine, who died at the age of thirty-eight years, six weeks after her father's death; Myrtle, the wife of Frank Davis, of this county, and Rev. Earl Isaac Doty, who spent four years in China as a missionary and is now studying in the Chicago University.

In politics Mr. Doty was a democrat and took a deep interest in the political situation, yet did not seek nor desire office. He was an active and consistent member of the United Brethren church and his life was ever upright and honorable, winning for him the high regard and good-will of all with whom he came in contact. He was familiar not only with the phases of pioneer life in Illinois but also in Iowa, and his efforts were an element in the material development and substantial progress of both states.

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### HARRY A. LEETE.

Harry A. Leete, who for the past eleven years has conducted a large furniture store and a well appointed undertaking parlor in Greene, was born in Jackson township, this county, July 22, 1875. He is a son of Allan Leete, a pioneer in Butler county and one of the first settlers in Jackson township, where he owned and operated a valuable farm for a number of years. He was also well known in public life, serving as county supervisor for some time and holding various other positions of trust and responsibility. Eventually he sold his farm and moved into Clarksville, where he engaged in business for a few years and where his death occurred in April, 1913, when he was eighty-nine years of age. His wife survives him and makes her home with her daughter at Packard, this county.

Harry A. Leete was reared upon the home farm in Butler county and acquired his primary education in the district schools. He later attended high school at Clarksville and after laying aside his books became connected with his father's business enterprise there, gaining valuable practical experience in the furniture and undertaking business. This he supplemented by a course in embalming at Grand Forks, North Dakota. He remained in his father's employ for two or three years and at the end of that time moved to Greene, where he put in a stock of furniture and undertaking goods and established himself in the business which has engaged his attention for the past eleven years. He carries a well selected stock of furniture, including pianos, organs, rugs and mirrors, and he does practically all of the undertaking for Butler county. He has met with excellent success in business and his prosperity is the direct result of his own energy and enterprise.

On the 10th of October, 1898, in Clarksville, Mr. Leete married Miss Pearl Gilbert, a native of Iowa, who was reared and educated in Clarksville, where she afterward engaged in teaching. Mr. and Mrs. Leete have become the parents of a daughter, Doris. The family reside in an attractive home in the new addition to Greene. Mr. Leete is a member of the Greene lodge of the Knights of Pythias and belongs to the Elks and the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his wife are well known in Greene and hold the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends.

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### HENRY ATKINSON.

No history of pioneer times in Butler county would be complete without mention of Henry Atkinson, now deceased, who arrived here during the early period in the development of this part of the state. He was born in Yorkshire, England, October 3, 1831, a son of George and Margaret (Jackson) Atkinson, who spent their entire lives in their native land. Their family numbered three sons and three daughters, of whom three came to the United States. The brother of Henry Atkinson died, however, soon after his arrival in the new world and the sister became a resident of Kansas.

Henry Atkinson spent his boyhood and youth in England to the age of nineteen years, when he came with an uncle to America in 1850. A location was made at Niagara county, New York, where he worked for his uncle for a few years, before securing a home in the new but growing west. He arrived in Clarksville December, 1855, and spent the remaining days of his life in this county. He became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land six miles east of the town, which is still in possession of the family and for a long period he energetically and successfully carried on farming.

It was in 1860 that Mr. Atkinson was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Cloukey, who was born in Ontario, Canada, October 15, 1833. Her parents removed to Vermont and she was reared in the Green Mountain state, living there until 1857, when the family home was established in Butler county. The journey west was made by train to Dubuque, where they had to hire teams to bring them to their destination, as there were then no railroads through this part of the country. Many conditions of pioneer

life still existed, and at the time of their arrival prairie fires were burning and things did not look very inviting. However, with courageous spirit they began the establishment of a home. The father entered land in Bennezzette township, Butler county, and in this county Augustus and Mary Ann Cloukey, parents of Mrs. Atkinson and natives of Canada, spent their remaining days, passing away in Clarksville. Their family numbered seven children, two sons and five daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson also had seven children: Viola, the wife of Arthur Downing of Kansas; May, at home; Francis, living in Battle Creek, Michigan; Lester, the principal of the schools at Kesley, Butler county, Iowa; George, whose home is in South Dakota; Mrs. Clara Clock, deceased; and Hon. William I. Atkinson, of whom mention is made on another page of this work.

The death of Mr. Atkinson occurred June 10, 1889. His widow made her home in Clarksville. In politics he was a republican, but never sought nor desired office. He held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and his religious faith was manifest in all of the relations of life. As a pioneer he lived to see some remarkable changes as the wild prairie land was converted into rich fields, as the log cabins were replaced by substantial and commodious modern residences and as the work of development and improvement was carried steadily forward, bringing about the prosperity and progress of the present day.

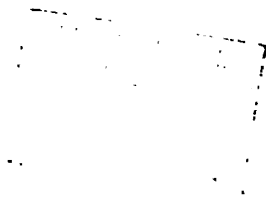
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### SAMUEL L. PATTERSON.

Samuel L. Patterson occupies a leading position in financial circles of Austinville as cashier of the Austinville Savings Bank, and he has besides various other business connections the importance of which places him among the substantial and representative men of the community. His prosperity is due entirely to his own efforts and demonstrates the value of perseverance, industry and integrity as elements in a successful career. He was born near Belfast, Ireland, April 28, 1870, a son of Samuel L. and Jane (Lawson) Patterson, also natives of the Emerald isle, the former born in 1842 and the latter in 1844. The father was a farmer and stock dealer, following these occupations in Ireland until his death in 1910. His wife survives him and makes her home in her native country. Thirteen children were born to their



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL L. PATTERSON



union, David, Maggie, Hugh, Lizzie, Samuel L., Sarah J., Essie, Robert, William J., Joseph, Martha, John, and a child who died in infancy.

Samuel L. Patterson attended school in Ireland until he was sixteen years of age and then secured a position as a farm laborer, working for two years for twenty-five cents a day. After he came to America he settled in Illinois, working as a farm hand in Kane county for two and one-half years at a salary of twenty-three dollars a month. In 1891 he moved to Aplington, this county, and worked as a butter maker for four years, after which he came to Austinville as manager and butter maker for the Austinville Creamery, of which he is now half owner. He retained this position until 1910, when he became connected with financial interests as cashier of the Austinville Savings Bank, in which he is a stockholder and director. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Savings Bank of Aplington, half owner of the Austinville Creamery and has valuable property interests, including an excellent residence in the city.

In Washington township, on the 25th of September, 1899, Mr. Patterson married Miss Alice E. Austin, a daughter of Henry Austin, a prominent and wealthy farmer and stock breeder of that locality, who met death by accident in Waterloo in 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Patterson have two children, Clarence A. and Mildred A. Mr. Patterson is an elder in the Presbyterian church and is a member of the Masonic fraternity. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served as chairman of Washington township and as secretary of the school board. He occupies a position of prominence and importance in business circles of this locality, and his success has been well earned and worthily used.

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### OWEN W. HARDMAN.

Owen W. Hardman, a prominent and well known farmer and stock-raiser of Dayton township, is a native son of Butler county, born in Coldwater township, August 22, 1866. His father, Aaron Hardman, was one of the early settlers in this state, settling in Coldwater township, Butler county, Iowa. His death occurred June 5, 1878.



Owen W. Hardman was reared upon his father's farm and acquired his education in the public schools of Greene. After the death of his father he worked as a monthly laborer for several years and then rented land which he operated for some time. In 1906 he purchased eighty acres in Dayton township and upon this property he has since resided, carrying forward the work of its development in a practical and progressive way. He repaired the buildings which were upon the property when it came into his possession, remodeled the house and erected a substantial barn and granary, a wagon shed and corn cribs. He has fenced and cross fenced his fields and put out a grove of orchard and ornamental trees and today the entire place reflects his careful and well directed labor. In addition to general farming he engages extensively in stock-raising, keeping a good grade of Durham cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and heavy work horses. He is one of the directors and adjusters in the Farmers Fire Insurance Company of Butler county and is recognized as a man of excellent business ability.

In Coldwater township, April 3, 1889, Mr. Hardman married Miss Etta Keister, who was born and reared in Bennezette township. They have three children: Glen, who is assisting in the operation of his father's farm; Homer H.; and Helen Gertrude. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Packard and are known as people of exemplary character.

Mr. Hardman is a member of the Greene lodge of Odd Fellows, in which he has held all of the chairs, and is now a past grand. His wife is a noble grand of the Daughters of Rebekah and well known in the affairs of that organization. Mr. Hardman's political allegiance is given to the republican party and for a number of years he served as street supervisor of Greene. He never neglects the duties of citizenship but concentrates his attention principally upon the conduct of his farm, in which he is meeting with gratifying and well deserved success.

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### LAMBERT J. ROGERS.

During the period of the Civil war Lambert J. Rogers with patriotic spirit responded to the call for troops and since the close of hostilities he has been equally loyal to the stars and stripes, standing at all times for the best interests of the country. He has

made a creditable record in public office in Butler county and is now numbered among the substantial business men of Allison, where he is engaged in buying stock. His birth occurred in Washington county, New York, April 8, 1843, a son of Clark and Lovisa (Herron) Rogers, both natives of the Empire state. They spent the greater part of their lives in Washington county, New York, and in 1853 removed westward to Wisconsin, settling in Walworth county, where their remaining days were passed. The father died in July, 1856, at the age of fifty-three years, and the mother passed away in January, 1869, when sixty-five years of age. He had always followed milling in support of his family, which numbered five sons and three daughters, but one of the daughters died in early girlhood. The only ones now living are Lambert J. and John Rogers, the latter a resident of Sharon, Wisconsin.

Lambert J. Rogers was a little lad of ten years when he accompanied his parents to Wisconsin, where he remained until April, 1868, and then came to Butler county, Iowa, where he has since lived. For eleven years he engaged in farming. It was prior to his arrival in this state that he served in the army, enlisting in 1863 as a member of Company K, Second Wisconsin Cavalry, with which he served for nearly three years as a non-commissioned officer. He was on active duty, scouting and raiding most of the time, and he was under General Custer in Texas. He was mustered out at Austin, Texas, in December, 1865, and returned to the north with a creditable military record, being only about twenty-two years of age when the war closed.

After following farming in this county until 1879 Mr. Rogers engaged in the live-stock business for about eight years, or until January, 1887, when he took up his abode in Allison. He served for four years as county recorder, occupying the position from January, 1887, until 1891, after which he retired from office with a creditable record. He then went upon the road as a traveling salesman, but later was appointed postmaster and filled the position for ten years under Presidents Harrison, McKinley and Roosevelt. During the remainder of the time he has been engaged in the live-stock business, in which he is very successful, capably managing his interests so that substantial returns are obtained upon his investment.

In May, 1866, Mr. Rogers married Miss Julia P. Dodge, who was born in Genesee county, New York, March 15, 1843, and went to Wisconsin with her parents, Josiah and Julia Dodge, who spent their remaining days in that state. Mr. Rogers was called upon

to mourn the loss of his wife in 1908, her death occurring in Waverly, Iowa, on the 23d of August of that year.

In his political views Mr. Rogers is a republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He is entitled to wear the Grand Army button, holding membership in Lieutenant Braden Post, No. 356, G. A. R., of Allison. He likewise belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge. What he has accomplished indicates the wise use he has made of his time and talents. The years have brought him a substantial measure of success and public opinion accords him a place with the representative and valued citizens of Butler county.

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### ORLANDO C. MINER.

Orlando C. Miner, a well known and prosperous hardware merchant of Greene, who has been closely connected with commercial interests of the city for the past sixteen years, was born in Green county, Wisconsin, November 15, 1867. He is one of a family of eleven children, of whom three live in Greene: Richard, a well known business man of the city; Emma, who makes her home with her brother; and Orlando C., of this review.

Orlando C. Miner came with his parents to Butler county, Iowa, when he was only one year old, and he was reared upon his father's farm in this locality, receiving a primary education in the district school and supplementing this by a few terms in high school. After reaching maturity he operated the homestead for a few years and in 1897 moved to Greene, where he purchased an established hardware business which he has since conducted. Being a progressive and able business man, he has met with most gratifying success in the conduct of this enterprise and has the confidence and patronage of the people of Greene and of the surrounding country districts. He carries a large and well selected stock of shelf and heavy hardware and his business is constantly increasing in volume and importance.

Mr. Miner and his sister are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Miss Miner is well known in the affairs of the church auxiliary societies. They reside in an attractive home in Greene and are well known in social circles of the city. Mr. Miner gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served as a member of the board of aldermen and for two terms on the

township board. He is a Master Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Greene. From his infancy he has been a resident of Butler county and has therefore witnessed much of the growth of this locality, contributing in a substantial measure to the later development of the city of Greene. He is an able and progressive man of business and a public-spirited citizen, well worthy of the esteem and confidence in which he is uniformly held.

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### FERDINAND BECKER.

Germany has furnished her full quota of valuable citizens to Iowa, among the number being Ferdinand Becker of Butler county, formerly closely identified with agricultural interests, but now living retired in the enjoyment of a well earned rest. He was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, November 30, 1837, and is a son of Johann and Wilhemina (Koch) Becker. The mother died when her son Ferdinand was but a year old. The father died in Germany, where he had learned and followed the tailor's trade, making it his life work. He was twice married and had nine children by his first wife, but Ferdinand Becker was the only child of the second marriage.

Public schools of his native country furnished Ferdinand Becker his educational opportunities. He remained in the fatherland until nineteen years of age, and then, attracted by the reports which he had heard concerning the opportunities and advantages of the new world, he came to America in 1857, settling first at Guttenberg, Clayton county, Iowa, where he began working by the year as a farm hand, receiving one hundred and thirty-three dollars per annum during the two years spent in that way. He afterward operated a threshing machine for about seven seasons and through the remainder of the year engaged in farming. In 1862 he went to South Dakota and secured a claim, but after working there for a short time with oxen he returned to Iowa. In 1866 he came to Butler county, settling five miles northeast of Clarksville in Butler township, where he purchased eighty acres of land and added thereto from time to time until he had one hundred and sixty acres. Year after year he carefully tilled his fields and harvested his crops until he retired to Clarksville about seven years ago. He still owns the farm, which is a well improved tract of prairie land and which returns to him a gratifying annual income.

On the 25th of March, 1863, Mr. Becker was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Buchholz, who was born in Hanover, Germany, August 30, 1844, a daughter of Henry and Caroline (Kalla) Buchholz, and went to Clinton county, Iowa, in 1854, with her mother.

Her father died in New York soon after his arrival on this side of the water, but the mother passed away in Butler county. Mr. and Mrs. Becker have become the parents of nine children: William, who is living on his father's farm in Butler township; Caroline, the wife of Herman Schmadeke; Louise, who died at the age of fifteen months; Augusta, who is the wife of F. W. Meyer and makes her home with her father; Bertha, the wife of F. Fahshold of North Dakota; Anna, the wife of Henry Miller of Clarksville; Gesina, the deceased wife of Ed Klinemeyer; Ferdinand of North Dakota; and Rosa, the wife of Henry Bushing of North Dakota.

The parents are both members of the Lutheran church, loyal to its teachings, and they are today among the most respected and venerated of the old couples of Clarksville. Mr. Becker has passed the seventy-sixth milestone on life's journey and his record proves what may be accomplished in this land, where opportunity is not hampered by caste or class, but where the road to usefulness and success is open to all.

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### AUSTIN C. WILCOX.

Austin C. Wilcox is now living retired in Clarksville and his rest is well earned, as it follows many years of active, persistent labor in the fields when farm work claimed his attention. He was born in Binghampton, New York, December 26, 1840, his parents being Austin C. and Hannah (Taylor) Wilcox, natives of Pennsylvania and of New York respectively. About 1848 they removed westward to Dubuque, Iowa, by way of the river route, and the father died in that city almost immediately after his arrival there, the mother surviving for only six days. They had a family of seven children, the eldest being twenty years of age and the youngest a baby of a year or two at the time of the parents' death. The members of the family, besides our subject, were: Edward, now deceased; Gilbert, who enlisted from Des Moines and served for three years in the Civil war but has now passed away; Mrs. Lucy Petty, who has also departed this life; George, who served through the war, veteranizing as a member of an Illinois regi-

ment, but is now deceased; Mrs. Lydia Matilda Henderson Hickel, who was married twice and is now deceased, and Mrs. Emily Hickel, who has also been called from this life.

Austin C. Wilcox was the fifth in order of birth and is the only one of the children now living. Left an orphan at the age of eight years, he went to live with strangers in Jones county, by whom he was reared to the age of sixteen years. He spent the succeeding year in Dubuque county and then made his way across the plains to the Rocky mountains, where he spent a few months in 1860. In the fall of that year, however, he came to Butler county, which was still largely a frontier district, and he began breaking the prairie with four oxen of his own. He knows all of the phases of pioneer life and the hardships and difficulties incident to the development of a new farm.

Interruption to his business affairs came in the shape of military service, for on the 16th of August, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company E, Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, from which he was honorably discharged at Mound City, Illinois, on the 3d of April, 1864, owing to disability. He was engaged in guard duty in Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky until taken ill.

At the close of his military service Mr. Wilcox returned to Butler county, and in January, 1865, went to Blackhawk county, where he engaged in buying and feeding cattle and hogs for about three years. In 1868 he returned and bought a farm in Jackson township, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits for almost a third of a century. In 1900, however, he retired and took up his abode in Clarksville, where he now makes his home. He is still the owner of three hundred and twenty acres on sections 25 and 36, Jackson township, which came into his possession as wild prairie land and was converted by him into rich and productive fields. He built a good home at Clarksville on a tract of twelve acres which he had purchased. Much of this, however, he has since sold off in city lots, retaining now only four acres. His life has been a busy and useful one. He knows what hard labor means, for he performed the arduous task of developing a new farm. He always kept up with the latest improvements in machinery and utilized progressive methods in developing his place, which he converted into one of the valuable properties of the township.

On the 14th of October, 1866, Mr. Wilcox was united in marriage to Miss Martha E. Champlin, who was born January 17, 1850, in Illinois, and who was taken to Blackhawk county by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David A. Champlin, when she was ten years

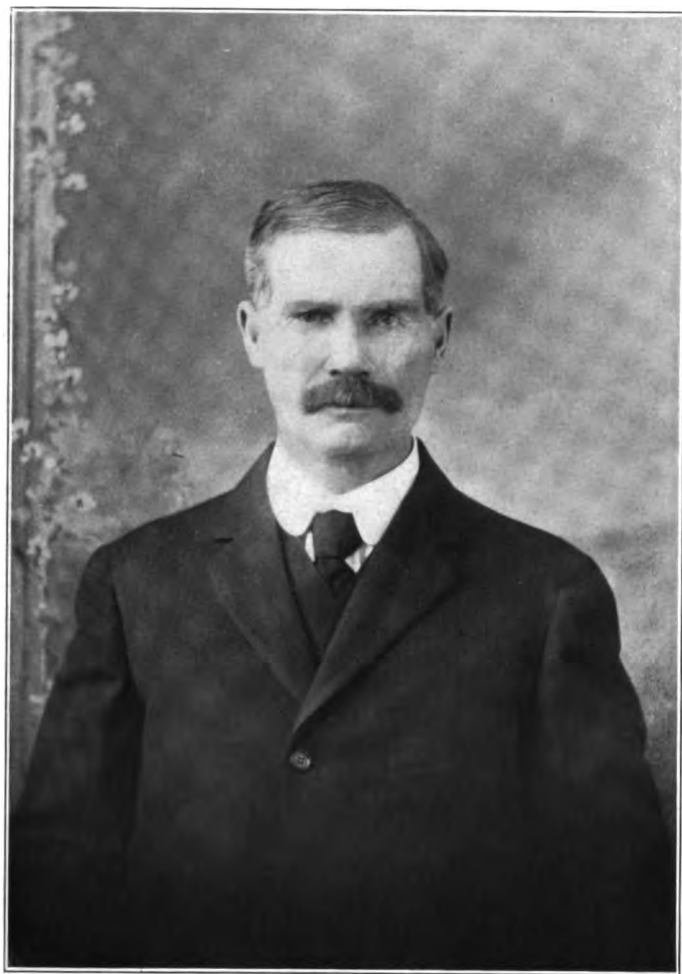
of age. Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox became the parents of seven children: David A., of Butler township, who is married and has six children; Cora, who died at the age of thirty-two years; Inzie, who is the wife of Edwin Hickel, of Waterloo, and has one child; Jay, of Massachusetts, who is married and has two children; Jennie, twin sister of Jay and the wife of E. A. R. Baxter, of Parkersburg, Iowa, by whom she has two children; Maude, the wife of Al Smith, of Dubuque county, by whom she has two children; and Herbert, at home.

Mr. Wilcox has always voted the republican ticket until a few years ago and might now be called an independent republican, for if his judgment dictates his vote is cast for candidates of other parties. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church, to the support of which she contributes liberally. He is a charter member of Butler Post, G. A. R., of Clarksville, and greatly enjoys meeting with his old army comrades. He is a self-made man and one who deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. Not all of the days in his career have been equally bright and as recently as the spring of the present year he suffered heavy losses by fire, which destroyed most of the buildings upon his farm. But he has never allowed difficulties or obstacles to discourage him and persistently and energetically has worked his way upward and is today numbered among the men of affluence in Butler county, possessing a competence sufficient to supply him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

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### LEONARD LUCAS.

Coldwater township numbers among its most progressive, able and valued citizens Leonard Lucas, who for a number of years has owned and operated a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 9, gaining wide recognition as a successful farmer and stock-raiser. He was born in the province of Quebec, Canada, August 29, 1859, and is a son of Leonard and Fannie (Foster) Lucas, the former born in the north of Ireland in 1818 and the latter in 1822. The father moved to the Dominion about 1833, locating in Quebec province, where he engaged in farming for a number of years. In 1869 he moved to Iowa, locating in Floyd county, where he purchased a tract of wild land and opened up a farm. From time to time he added to his holdings until he



LEONARD LUCAS





owned almost five hundred acres. This he later sold and moved to North Dakota. He resided there until 1890, then moved to Winnipeg, where his death occurred November 6, 1906. His wife died March 16, 1899.

Leonard Lucas came with his parents to Iowa when he was ten years of age. He was reared in Floyd county, this state, and as a boy aided in the improvement and development of the home farm. He remained with his father until he had attained his majority, and then moved to North Dakota, where he entered three hundred and twenty acres of land in Burleigh county. Portions of this property he broke and upon it built a number of buildings, continuing to reside upon the farm for four years. At the end of that time he returned to Iowa and purchased one hundred and twenty acres on section 9, Coldwater township, and upon this property has since resided. When it came into his possession in 1885 it was in part a tract of uncultivated prairie land, but with characteristic energy Mr. Lucas broke the soil and erected a number of buildings upon his property and turned his attention to general farming. He has built an excellent farm house and has put out an orchard and a fine grove of fruit and evergreen trees, and he has today an attractive place, second to none in the township in beauty and value. In 1892, while still conducting his farm, Mr. Lucas took charge of and managed the flour mill and feed business of the Greene Manufacturing Company at Greene. He successfully conducted the enterprise for four years and then withdrew therefrom in order to concentrate his energies more exclusively upon the management of his farm. His recent improvements include a cement-block silo, with a capacity of one hundred tons, this being one of the first buildings of this kind in Butler county. Mr. Lucas raises black polled cattle, keeping pure-blooded and high-grade animals, and he breeds Poland China hogs and Norman horses, being well known as a successful breeder and dealer. He operates a large dairy, important features of which are its neatness and sanitation, and the products of the dairy command a ready sale in the local market, securing the highest market prices. Mr. Lucas was also one of the promoters of the Greene Cooperative Creamery Association, of which he is now president, and in this connection is proving himself a reliable and farsighted business man. In 1907 he was one of the organizers of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company at Greene and became the first manager of the enterprise, which is now conducting a business of mammoth proportions. Mr. Lucas is likewise a director of the Butler County

Mutual Insurance Association, which is today one of the largest county mutual insurance companies in the state. His activities also reach out along other lines, for he is vice president and director of the Butler County Fair Association and also of the Butler County Farmers Institute. He is greatly interested in any organization which stimulates an interest in improved agricultural conditions and he has himself been the leader in bringing about many reforms and improvements in the methods of developing and cultivating the soil and caring for stock.

In North Dakota, on the 7th of July, 1884, Mr. Lucas was united in marriage to Miss Ursula Whitten, who was born in Augusta, Maine, where she was reared and educated. She later moved west and engaged in teaching in North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Lucas have become the parents of eight children: Alice, a graduate of the Greene high school, married Walter McEwen, of New Hampton, Iowa. Lillian, a graduate of the Greene public school, for several years has been engaged in teaching. Gertrude, also a graduate of the Greene school is the wife of Dayton Mather, a farmer of Dayton township. Harriet, a graduate of the Greene high school, engaged in teaching for one year. She later married Chester Elgin and they located on a ranch near Cheyenne, Wyoming, where she passed away December 5, 1912, leaving an infant daughter. Her body was brought back to Greene and buried in the Rosehill cemetery. Percival acquired his education in the public schools of Coldwater township and supplemented this by a short course in the agricultural college at Ames. He is now aiding in the operation of the homestead. Eugenie is a graduate from the Greene high school and is now attending Mount Vernon College. The other children born to Mr. and Mrs. Lucas are Homer S. and Darrell B.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucas are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Lucas is now steward. He is a Master Mason, connected with the blue lodge of Greene. In former years he was identified with the republican party but since 1912 has been an enthusiastic supporter of the progressive party. Elected justice of the peace, he has now served for eight or ten years in that capacity and his decisions have ever been fair and impartial. He has also been identified with school interests in this vicinity, serving as president of the school board of Coldwater township for a number of years. His identification with party management has come through his service as a delegate to numerous county and state conventions and he also attended the progres-

sive national convention in Chicago in 1912, as an alternate from the third district. He is a public-spirited and loyal citizen, who in every relation of life commands and merits the confidence and high regard of his neighbors and friends. What he has accomplished in a business way places him among the representative citizens of his part of the state. Each step in his career has been a forward one, bringing him a broader outlook and wider opportunities. He has learned to correctly value those things which go to make up life's contacts and experiences and his even-paced energy has carried him into important relations.

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### JOHN P. KYLE.

John P. Kyle, a prosperous and progressive agriculturist of Butler county, owning and operating a fine farm of eighty acres on section 21, Bennezette township, has been a resident of this locality since 1870, and during the intervening years has made some substantial contributions to its development and growth. He was born in Lancaster, Grant county, Wisconsin, April 4, 1859, and is a son of Adam Kyle, a native of Germany, who came to America with his mother when he was nine years of age. He was reared upon a farm in Pennsylvania and after reaching maturity came west, locating in Grant county, Wisconsin, where he purchased a tract of timber land. This he cleared, fenced and improved and afterward sold, buying another tract of forest land and opening up a new farm. In 1870 he disposed of his interests in Wisconsin and moved to Iowa, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land in Bennezette township, Butler county. When this tract came into his possession only a few acres were broken and the buildings consisted of a log house, a straw shed and a stable. Mr. Kyle broke more of the soil, repaired and remodeled the buildings and steadily carried forward the work of improvement. He later erected a substantial residence, a modern barn and some good outbuildings, and set out a grove of maple and cottonwood trees. He added to his holdings from time to time, finally acquiring four hundred and forty acres of valuable land. Upon this property he spent the last years of his life, dying here about 1905. He was known as one of the representative and substantial farmers of Bennezette township and his passing was widely and deeply regretted. He married, in Grant county, Wisconsin, Miss Theresa

Folk, who was born in Pennsylvania, of German parentage. She survives her husband and resides upon the old homestead with her sons.

John P. Kyle was reared upon his father's farm and from his early childhood assisted in its improvement and cultivation. He afterward assumed entire charge of the property, which he managed until he was forty years of age. In the meantime, however, he had purchased a farm in Bennezette township and had erected upon it a modern residence and substantial outbuildings, including a double crib, a hog house and a blacksmith shop. In 1899 he moved on to this property and there he has since made his home. He has fenced and cross fenced his fields with barbed and woven wire, has installed modern labor saving machinery and has acquired an enviable reputation as a practical and progressive agriculturist. He has a blacksmith shop upon his premises and does all his own work of this character besides all the carpentering necessary to keep his buildings in good repair. All of these he erected himself and the entire farm stands as a testimonial to his energy and enterprise. In addition to general farming he engages also in stock raising, keeping Duroc Jersey hogs, shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses. He is a stockholder in the Greene Cooperative Creamery and in the Farmers Elevator Company at Aredale.

On the 3d of April, 1899, in Coldwater township, Mr. Kyle married Miss Mary Kohlhaas, a daughter of Henry Kohlhaas, of Butler county. Mr. and Mrs. Kyle have an adopted son, Lowell. Mr. Kyle gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has served as road supervisor and as school treasurer. He has been a delegate to numerous county conventions, has served on the grand and petit juries and has always been found faithful and reliable. He and his wife are members of the Roman Catholic church and are held in high esteem and regard in the community in which they have resided for so many years.

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#### GEORGE R. DENNIS.

George R. Dennis, clerk of the district court of Butler county, was born at Grape Creek Mills, Frederick county, Maryland, March 27, 1858, his parents being Samuel D. and Rebecca T. (Walker) Dennis. The father, who was born in Frederick county, Maryland, was a miller and followed the business for many years.

He was appointed flour inspector by the Governor of Maryland and was occupying that position at the time of his death, which occurred when his son George was nearly ten years of age. The mother's birth occurred in Columbia, Pennsylvania, and she accompanied her parents on their removal to Utica Mills, Frederick county, Maryland, where she was married. She died when her son George was about six years of age and the remains of both the father and mother now rest in the cemetery at Frederick City, Maryland, where many notable people lie buried, including Francis Scott Key, author of the "Star Spangled Banner." The town of Walkersville, Maryland, was named in honor of the maternal ancestors of George R. Dennis, who was the third in order of birth in a family of five children. The others, Rebecca, Mary, Ella and Samuel D., are all now deceased.

Following the death of his parents Jacob D. Walker, an uncle, became the guardian of George R. Dennis, but after about a year the boy ran away from his uncle and made his home with John O'Leary, a hotel keeper in Washington, D. C., for about three years. The site of that hotel is now part of the capitol grounds. At the end of that time his uncle discovered the whereabouts of the boy, took him home and sent him to school at the Western Maryland College, a Methodist Protestant institution. He passed through the freshman class and then went to Poughkeepsie, New York, where he attended Eastman's Business College, completing a course there. He next went to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and was floor foreman there for two years in a mill where twelve millers were employed. He next went to Chicago and accepted a position as clerk in the Everett House, spending a year or two in that city. Later he worked on a farm for Curlis Ford, a wealthy man living near Cedar Falls, Iowa, who treated him with great kindness and consideration during the six years he spent in his service.

In 1882 Mr. Dennis married Miss Roxie A. Kaiser and five children have been born unto them: Robert Guy, living at New Hartford, Iowa; Miles Grafton, of San Francisco, California; Effie, the wife of A. L. Webster, also of New Hartford; Anna, the wife of Floyd Moore, of Blackhawk county, Iowa; and Harry, of New Hartford.

For a year after his marriage Mr. Dennis continued in the employ of Curlis Ford and then began farming on his own account. Two years later he removed to New Hartford, where he resided for twenty-two years and for nine years was engineer in a mill,

spending the greater part of the remainder of the time as a painter. He also occupied the position of assessor of New Hartford for fourteen years. On the 1st of January, 1913, he came to Allison and took up the duties of clerk of the district court, to which position he had been elected in November, 1912. He was a democrat in politics until 1896 and since that time had been a stalwart supporter of the republican party. The offices of assessor and clerk are the only ones that he has ever filled. It was his unprejudiced support of the primaries that secured him his nomination and brought about his later election. In his fraternal connections Mr. Dennis is a Mason, holding membership in Beaver Lodge, No. 472, A. F. & A. M., of New Hartford, in which he has held all of the offices save that of master. He also belongs to Dumont Lodge, K. P. While difficulties and obstacles beset him in his early career he has worked his way upward, has proven his worth in various connections and is now accounted one of the substantial citizens and capable officers of the county.

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#### EMIL W. PARNO.

A residence of over thirty years in Greene, during which time his interests have extended to many fields of activity, has brought Emil W. Parno into prominence in business and political circles of the city, and has given him an important place among men of marked ability and substantial worth. During all this time he has been engaged in the jewelry business, and in the course of years has built up a large and representative patronage and formed valuable trade relations, so that today he is one of the leading representatives of his business in Butler county. He was born in Guttenberg, Clayton county, Iowa, March 12, 1860, and is a son of August Parno, a native of Germany. The father grew to maturity in that country, where he studied chemistry, and as a young man crossed the Atlantic to America, locating in Clayton county. There he secured employment as chemist for a manufacturing concern, holding his position until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he joined an Iowa regiment, serving two years. He was discharged on account of disability and returned home, but he never recovered his health, dying two years later, in 1866. August Parno married Mrs. Sophia (Muller) Boller, a native of Germany, whose father was the incumbent of various positions

of public honor and trust. Mrs. Parno survived her husband for many years. She had six children by her first marriage and one son, Emil W., of this review, by her second union.

Emil W. Parno acquired his education in the common schools of his native county and afterward learned the jeweler's trade in Dubuque. He was for a time employed in the store conducted by his brother-in-law and afterward came to Greene, where he took charge of the business owned by his half brother, who had died here. Emil W. Parno bought the stock of this enterprise and closed the business, returning to Dubuque, where he secured a position as manager in a jewelry concern. About 1884 he again moved to Greene and established here a retail jewelry business which he has since conducted. He carries one of the largest and best selected stocks of jewelry in Butler county and he has built up a large and representative patronage, for his business methods are at all times straightforward and practical and his integrity beyond question. He is also an optometrist of considerable reputation, having made a special study of this science, and he gives a great deal of attention to this department of his business. He belongs to the Iowa and National Associations of Optometrists and his ability in examining eyes and fitting glasses is widely recognized.

In Charles City, Iowa, on the 14th of January, 1884, Mr. Parno was united in marriage to Miss Augusta Bernhard, a native of Madison, Wisconsin, but reared in Charles City. Mr. and Mrs. Parno have become the parents of two children. Their son, A. W. Parno, was reared and educated in Greene and learned the jewelry trade under his father. He is now carrying on a large business of this character in Clarksville. Their daughter Irene was also reared in Greene and is a graduate of the Greene high school. She later took a musical course in a conservatory in Los Angeles and is now engaged in teaching music in Greene. Mr. and Mrs. Parno and their daughter made a trip to California in February, 1913, visiting most of the coast cities and spending several months in Los Angeles.

Mr. Parno is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having joined the local lodge in 1882. He is identified also with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He is a progressive and public-spirited citizen and has always been interested in public affairs, having been one of the first to secure a franchise for the installation of an electric light plant, this having later been developed into the present Electric Light & Power Company. He



is independent politically and has held various positions of trust and responsibility, serving for one term on the town board and for two terms as mayor of Greene, and his record is one of disinterested and able work in the public service. He is widely and favorably known in Greene and holds the confidence and regard of all with whom business, political or social relations have brought him into contact.

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### WALTER E. WEST.

The wealth of Iowa lies in her soil and in its intelligent development and among the enterprising citizens connected with agricultural interests is Walter E. West, whose home is on section 13, West Point township, not far from Allison. The consensus of public opinion numbers him with the progressive, farsighted business men and along various lines his labors have contributed to public progress and prosperity. He was born in Blackhawk county, Iowa, a mile north of Cedar Falls, on the 12th of June, 1867, and is a son of Thomas and Deidamia (Davis) West. The father, a native of Ohio, died in Blackhawk county when his son Walter was seventeen years of age and the mother afterward came to live with her son, spending her remaining days in his home. Both were married twice and by his first union the father had eleven children, while the mother had several children by a former marriage. There were but two children of the second union, Walter E. and William W., the latter living near Granite Falls, in Yellow Medicine county, Minnesota.

Walter E. West spent the days of his boyhood and youth in the place of his nativity, acquiring a public-school education which served as a foundation for his later success and advancement along both intellectual and material lines. He arrived in this county in 1889, when a young man of twenty-two years, and has here since resided. His entire life has been devoted to farming and the early training of his youth in the work of the fields enabled him to carefully direct his labors when he began farming on his own account. He is today the owner of eighty acres on section 13, West Point township, and the remaining sixty acres lie just across the road in Jackson township, on section 18. His place is well developed and most of the improvements have been made by Mr. West, who is a progressive farmer and keeps abreast with the most modern meth-



MR. AND MRS. WALTER E. WEST



ods in tilling the soil and caring for the crops. His farm presents a most attractive appearance, being divided into neat fields of convenient size by well kept fences, while the farm work is accomplished with the aid of the latest improved machinery. In other connections he is recognized as a man of sound business judgment and his cooperation is considered a valuable factor in the successful management of his other interests. He is now vice president of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company of Allison and is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of that city.

On the 22d of December, 1887, Mr. West wedded Miss Linnie E. Shields, who was born in Blackhawk county, March 2, 1867, and is a daughter of Samuel Shields. They have three children: Lloyd E., of Clarksville; Grace O., the wife of Roy Neal, of Clarksville; and Hazel, at home. The parents are members of the Congregational church of Allison, contributing generously to its support and taking a helpful interest in its work. Mr. West has ever exercised his right of franchise in support of both the men and measures of the republican party and feels a citizen's interest in questions of vital concern to the county and to the state. He does not seek nor wish for office, feeling that his time is fully occupied by his business affairs, which are of growing importance and are bringing to him gratifying returns.

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### HARRY C. DOORE.

The enterprising town of Greene numbers among its most able and representative business men Harry C. Doore, who for the past six years has conducted a large and important drug store there. He is a native son of Iowa, born in Floyd county, December 12, 1875. His father, Allan J. Doore, was born in Dover, Maine, and grew to maturity there. As a young man he came west to Iowa, locating in Floyd county, where his marriage occurred. His wife was in her maidenhood Miss Alice M. Lockwood, a native of New York state, who came west after she grew to womanhood. Allan Doore engaged in agricultural pursuits in Floyd county for many years, becoming well known throughout the state as a progressive and successful farmer and stock-raiser and a dealer in Star seed corn. He owned a farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he kept always in a high state of cultivation. In 1903 he moved to

Greene, where he lived retired until his death, which occurred November 24, 1912. His wife survives him and makes her home in Greene. To their union were born four sons and one daughter, all of whom have married and are now heads of families.

Harry C. Doore was reared upon his father's farm in Floyd county and acquired his early education in the public schools, supplementing this by a course in pharmacy in Drake university at Des Moines, from which he was graduated with honors in the class of 1902. He later accepted a position in a drug store in Des Moines, serving as pharmacist and clerk for four years, after which, in 1907, he returned to Greene and purchased an interest in an established drug business. In the following year he bought his partner's stock and has since continued the enterprise alone. In addition to a large stock of drugs and medicines he carries also oils, paints, varnishes, stationery, books and magazines and has a large soda fountain. All the branches of his enterprise have become important and profitable under his able management and his patronage is constantly growing, for his prices are reasonable and his business methods courteous and straightforward.

In Greene, on the 18th of June, 1913, Mr. Doore was united in marriage to Miss Ella Hesalroad, who was born and reared in Butler county, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Hesalroad. Mrs. Doore is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and belongs to the church auxiliary societies. Mr. Doore is connected fraternally with the Knights of Pythias, holding membership in the local lodge at Greene. He has an enviable reputation in business circles and in the social relations of life commands the esteem and regard of all who are associated with him.

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#### J. A. BARLOW.

Butler county has been signally favored in the class of men who have occupied her public positions, in which connection J. A. Barlow should be mentioned, as he is now capably filling the office of county treasurer. Allison numbers him among her native sons, his birth having here occurred April 27, 1886. His parents, John and Bell (Oleson) Barlow, are residents of Dumont, where the father is engaged in the banking business. He was filling the office of county clerk at the time of the birth of his son, J. A.

Barlow, and after his term of office had expired he removed with the family to a farm in Ripley township, five miles southwest of Allison, there residing for five years. He next returned to town, the family taking up their abode in Dumont when J. A. Barlow was but nine years of age.

The subject of this review had acquired his education in the public schools of Dumont and was employed in his father's bank for six years, or until his election to his present position in November, 1912. He then returned to Allison, his native city, and assumed the duties of the office of county treasurer on the first of January, 1913. He is systematic, methodical, prompt and reliable and is making a most creditable record in office. He was elected on the republican ticket, having always been a supporter of the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He likewise served as town clerk for four years while in Dumont. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and has many friends in that organization as well as in other connections. Those who know him esteem him for his sterling worth and none hold him in as high regard as those who have known him longest, a fact which indicates a well spent life.

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### ROY J. POOLEY.

Among the younger business men of Greene who have made their influence felt in the later commercial development of the city is numbered Roy J. Pooley, prominently connected with important business interests as secretary and manager of the Gates Lumber & Implement Company. He was born in Floyd county, near Greene, December 12, 1886, and is a son of John B. Pooley, a native of England. As a young man the father emigrated to America, locating first in Winnebago county, Illinois, where he remained for a number of years. He later settled near Greene, in Floyd county, Iowa, and there purchased a tract of wild land which he cleared, eventually developing a productive and profitable farm. He married in Floyd county Miss Priscilla J. Fiddick, of English parentage, a daughter of James Fiddick, who was a mechanic in the British government shipyards for a number of years and who was stationed for a time in South Africa, where Mrs. Pooley was born.

Roy J. Pooley was reared on his father's farm in Floyd county and acquired his early education in the public schools of that locality. He afterward attended the Greene high school and later the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts at Ames, where he took a course in civil engineering, graduating with the class of 1910. He was afterward appointed city engineer of Charles City, serving in that capacity for almost two years. Resigning at the end of that time he came to Greene, where he associated himself with the Hon. Charles Gates, assisting in the incorporation of the Gates Lumber & Implement Company, of which he became secretary and manager. These responsible positions he still holds and they have called forth his initiative spirit and organizing power—qualities which have been helpful factors in the development of the business. The company carries a large stock of lumber and building materials and also deals extensively in farm implements and machinery. In addition it is interested in the contracting and building business on a large scale and has important connections along this line. The concern is one of the substantial business institutions of Butler county and as its manager Mr. Pooley takes rank among representative and progressive citizens.

On the 6th of September, 1911, in Greene, Mr. Pooley was united in marriage to Miss Nelle M. Stickney, a niece of Mrs. Charles Gates, by whom she was reared and educated. Mr. and Mrs. Pooley have become the parents of a son, Selwin Dwight. Mr. Pooley is a member of the Knights of Pythias. He and his wife are members of the Greene Presbyterian church and are active in church and Sunday school work. They are people of exemplary character, well known and highly esteemed in Greene and throughout Butler county.

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### HENRY MULLER.

Henry Muller, senior member of the firm of Muller & Brockmann, dealers in lumber, coal, grain and building material at Clarksville, is a representative business man of the county, enterprising and energetic. He became identified with his present interests in 1910 and has displayed marked business ability and perseverance in their control. Since 1893 he has continuously resided in Butler county, arriving here when a young man of

twenty-six years. He was born at Schessinghausen, Kreis Nienburg, Germany, on the 1st of May, 1867, his parents being Heinrich and Louisa (Beermann) Muller, also natives of Germany. The father died in 1895, but the mother is still living there.

Henry Muller was one of a family of five children, of whom only he and his brother Ernest came to the United States, the latter now living in Bremer county. Henry Muller was reared as a farm boy, his father having devoted his life to agricultural pursuits, and after attaining his majority he seriously contemplated the question of coming to America that he might enjoy the better business advantages which report said could be secured here. At length his mind was made up and, bidding adieu to friends and native land, he sailed for the United States. Making his way to Butler county, Iowa, he began working as a farm hand and was thus employed for two years. He had previously followed farming in Germany and had spent three years as a member of the German army before crossing the Atlantic. After two years passed in the employ of others in this county he purchased ninety acres in Butler township and as his financial resources increased added to his holdings until he is now the owner of two hundred and ten acres in that township. He also owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Floyd county and from his landed possessions derives a substantial annual income. Year after year he carefully tilled the soil and continued to engage in farming until 1910, when he purchased his present business, becoming a member of the firm of Muller & Brockmann. They not only have a liberal patronage, but they also own much business property, including their elevator, lumber sheds, etc. They enjoy an extensive trade as dealers in lumber, coal, grain and building material and their enterprising and reliable methods are productive of gratifying results. Mr. Muller is also a director in the State Savings Bank of Clarksville and he owns an attractive home property in the town.

It was in the year 1896 that Mr. Muller was united in marriage to Miss Anna Becker, who was born in this county March 27, 1873, a daughter of Ferdinand Becker, mentioned elsewhere in this work. The three children of this marriage are Theodore, Gertrude and Hertha. In the summer of 1913 Mr. Muller went abroad, spending two months in Germany on a visit to his mother. He came here with two thousand dollars and that he is now numbered among the substantial citizens of the county is the direct result of his own labors. In politics he has always been a repub-



lican since becoming a naturalized American citizen. Both he and his wife hold membership in the German Lutheran church and they are prominent socially, the hospitality of the best homes of this part of the county being freely accorded them.

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### FRED ROVER.

Since 1884, Fred Rover has been prominently connected with agricultural interests of Butler county as the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, lying on section 28, Cold-water township. Throughout the years he has steadily carried forward the work of improving and developing this property and because his methods have always been practical and progressive, he has met with gratifying and well deserved success. He was born in Bremer county, this state, February 11, 1861, and is a son of Henry Rover, a native of Germany, who came to America when he was a young man, locating in Kane county, Illinois. He worked on a farm there for several years and there married Miss Louise Gurgens, also a native of Germany. After his marriage he moved to Iowa and entered land in Bremer county, acquiring one hundred and sixty acres at a dollar and a quarter per acre. He broke the soil and opened up a farm, later adding eighty acres to his holdings. Upon this property he erected an excellent residence and substantial buildings, making it eventually, one of the best equipped and modern farms in Maxfield township. He spent the declining years of his life upon his farm, dying December 21, 1911. His wife survived him only a short time, dying February 24, 1913.

Fred Rover grew to manhood in Bremer county and acquired his education in the public schools of the vicinity and in the Lutheran college at Waverly, where he spent one winter. Previous to this time his father had purchased five eighty-acre tracts of land in Butler county and in 1884 Fred Rover located on one hundred and sixty acres of this property, which he cleared, fenced and improved. He has erected upon it a fine two-story house, a modern barn, a granary and a hog house; has also put out an excellent grove of forest and evergreen trees and has installed a gasoline engine and pump, which supplies the house and barn with water. In addition to general farming, he also engages in stock-raising, keeping high-grade cattle, Poland China hogs and Norman horses. He first

specialized in raising red polled cattle, and afterward the Hereford and now the polled Durham. He is a stockholder in the Farmer's Co-operative Elevator Company and in the Northern West Point Creamery Company, which was organized some years ago.

Mr. Rover is married and has three children: Hulda; Emma; and Eldo H., who is aiding in the operation of the home farm. Mr. Rover is a member of the Lutheran church and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is now in the fifteenth year of his able service as a member of the township board and is at all times progressive and public-spirited in matters of citizenship, giving his aid and cooperation to many movements for the general good. In business he is known as a man of strict integrity and honor and he holds the confidence and respect of the entire community.

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#### W. W. R. SHAFER.

Since 1864 W. W. R. Shafer has lived in Dayton township and during the greater part of this period has made his home upon the farm on section 36, which is yet his place of residence. By following always the most practical methods he has met with gratifying success in his farming operations and is today numbered among the representative agriculturists of the locality. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, January 10, 1846, a son of Thomas Shafer, who moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio about the year 1854 and three years later went to Green county, Wisconsin. In 1864 he moved to Iowa and located in Clarksville, purchasing land in the vicinity and also engaging in the manufacture of flour. He passed away about the year 1893 and was survived by his wife until 1911.

W. W. R. Shafer came to Iowa with his parents when he was eighteen years of age and assumed charge of the farm, operating and improving this in the interests of his father until after the latter's death. The son then purchased the homestead and since that time has steadily carried forward the work of its development. He has erected an excellent residence upon it, a barn, granary and corn cribs, and has divided the place into convenient fields with fences of woven wire. In addition to this he has set out a fine grove of fruit, forest and evergreen trees, and in fact has

neglected nothing which would add to the appearance or value of the place. He raises a good grade of Durham and Aberdeen-Angus cattle, Poland China hogs and heavy work horses and his stock-raising interests are extensive and important.

In Brodhead, Wisconsin, December 21, 1865, Mr. Shafer was united in marriage to Miss L. J. Clemmer, a native of Green county, that state. Mr. and Mrs. Shafer became the parents of nine children: Thomas J., now sheriff of Butler county; F. L., of New Hampton; V. R., a resident of Waterloo; Mrs. Rettie Moulton, a widow residing in Cedar Falls; Della, the wife of J. M. Ramsey, editor of the Clarksville Star; Celia, who married Clyde Newman, of Clarksville; Alice, at home; Lena, who became the wife of J. K. Gabby and died in 1906; and George C., who passed away in 1908. The parents are liberal supporters of the Methodist Episcopal church of Clarksville.

Mr. Shafer gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and has served as township trustee a number of times and also as township clerk, as a member of the grand and petit juries and as delegate to numerous conventions. A resident of Butler county for almost half a century, he has thoroughly identified his interests with those of the locality and has made his work an important force in advancement and growth. He is widely known throughout the county as a representative citizen and commands the confidence and respect of the entire community.

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### JOHN WESLEY CUNNINGHAM.

Dr. J. W. Cunningham, a resident of Butler county, Iowa, since 1888, was born in Rutland, Wisconsin, September 17, 1873. His father, Reverend William Cunningham, a minister in the United Brethren church and a pioneer preacher both in this state and in Wisconsin, moved to Iowa in 1874 and has since held various positions in the state.

When only one year of age, Dr. Cunningham came with his father to Iowa and has made his home in Butler county since he was fifteen years of age. After completing his preliminary education, which he took in Leander Clark College at Toledo, Iowa, he studied medicine under Dr. A. J. Hobson of Hampton, Iowa, and later entered the medical department of the Iowa State University, graduating with the degree of M. D. in 1897. He also took



DR. JOHN W. CUNNINGHAM



a post-graduate course in Chicago and has since kept in close touch with modern methods in the medical practice.

After he received his degree, Dr. Cunningham located in Applington, where he began the practice of his profession in April of 1897. At the end of two years, he moved to Clarksville and after three years came to Dumont, where he formed a partnership with Dr. H. E. Day. Their association continued for three years. At the end of that time, Dr. Cunningham opened his present suite of offices, and his practice has grown steadily, extending beyond the limits of Dumont into the surrounding country districts.

He is regarded as one of the most able physicians in this section of Butler county for he supplements his thorough knowledge of the underlying principles of his profession by constant study and research along many lines, keeping in touch with the trend of modern medical advancement.

He is a member of the Butler County, the Iowa State and the Austin Flint Medical Societies and has presented many excellent articles before these organizations.

On the 23d day of June, 1898, Dr. Cunningham was united in marriage to Miss Mary Frances Stockdale, a daughter of C. J. Stockdale, a long-time and well known resident of Butler county. To this union were born four sons: Ralph Wesley Cunningham, who was born October 28, 1900; and triplet boys, born March 9, 1903, two of whom lived but a few days and the other, Elmer George, lived to be two years and died at the home of the Doctor's sister, Mrs. A. E. Fox, of Chicago, where he had been taken for medical treatment. On the 22d day of February, 1904, Mary Frances, wife of Dr. Cunningham, passed to the Great Beyond.

On June 29th, 1905, he was again married, his second union being with Miss Ethel Grace Stockdale, sister of his deceased wife. To this union one daughter, Thelma Irene, was born on October 5, 1907.

At the meeting of the supreme lodge of the Mystic Workers of the World, held in Milwaukee in June, 1912, Dr. Cunningham was elected supreme medical examiner of the order. The Mystic Workers have a membership of seventy-five thousand and are one of the best and most progressive fraternal insurance organizations doing business in America today. Dr. Cunningham deserves great credit, not only because of his ability to hold such a position, but because he was elected to this responsible place on the first ballot, with a field of six candidates in the run, showing beyond a question or a doubt that he is eminently fitted and qualified for the position.

Dr. Cunningham is a Master Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Clarksville, and he is connected also with the Knights of Pythias, being past chancellor commander of the Dumont lodge of that organization. He is well known in social circles of Dumont and in his profession has made rapid and continuous advancement, standing today among its most prominent representatives in this part of the state.

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### RICHARD GONZALES.

Richard Gonzales is a retired farmer now living in Allison. Success came to him during long connection with agricultural interests by reason of his unfaltering industry, his perseverance and his determination. He ranks, too, not only among the prosperous citizens of Butler county, but also among those whose lives have been actuated by a patriotic devotion to public duty. This was especially manifest in Mr. Gonzales at the time of the Civil war when he responded to the call for troops, going to the front with an Ohio regiment. He was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, November 21, 1840, a son of Richard and Jane (Gonzales) Gonzales. The father was a native of Pennsylvania and the mother a native of Columbiana county. Both Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gonzales were reared in Columbiana county and were there married. Mr. Gonzales died in Missouri prior to the birth of his son, Richard, and the mother afterward lived in Carroll county, Ohio, but spent her last days in the home of her son, Richard, in Butler county, Iowa, here passing away when in her seventieth year. She had five children: Nancy Ann, who died in young womanhood, while teaching school; Samuel, who enlisted in September, 1862, in the Ohio Cavalry, went with Sherman on the march to the sea and was honorably discharged at the close of the war; Silas, who died in Nebraska; Benjamin, living in Texas county, Missouri; and Richard.

The last named was reared in Carroll county, where he remained until he came to this county in 1867. He has now made his home here for forty-six years and has therefore witnessed much of the growth and development of this part of the state. He was a young man of but twenty-one years of age when he enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining Company I, Ninety-eighth Ohio Volunteer Infantry in August, 1862. He was mustered in in September and

on the 8th of October, 1862, at Perryville, Kentucky, was wounded. For a time he was in the field hospital, but his injuries were so serious that he was honorably discharged on the 11th of March, 1863.

Throughout his entire life Mr. Gonzales has followed farming and is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of good land west of Allison. He has sold the old home place, however, and since the fall of 1899 has made his home in Allison, where he is pleasantly situated, the fruits of his former toil supplying him with all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

On the 1st of January, 1867, Mr. Gonzales was married to Miss Susan Crumbecker, who was born in Carroll county, Ohio, September 2, 1837, a daughter of Isaac and Hannah (Miller) Crumbecker, who were natives of Maryland, but removed to Carroll county, Ohio, in childhood, Mrs. Crumbecker being ten years of age when the Miller family went to the Buckeye state. She was born in 1802 and her husband in 1801. Both died in Ohio, Mr. Crumbecker at the age of seventy-nine years and his wife when sixty-two years of age. They were pioneer settlers of that state, taking up their abode there in the midst of the forest, but developing a good home in which they reared their family. Mrs. Gonzales remained under the parental roof to the time of her marriage and then started for Butler county, Iowa, with her husband. They settled first near Butler Center, which was then the county seat and he paid five dollars per acre for his first farm which is now worth one hundred and seventy-five dollars per acre. As the years passed on five children were added to the household: Ida S., the wife of Walter S. Bell of West Point township; John B., of St. Louis; Frank C., of Traylor, Iowa; Mary Jane, the wife of B. L. Burbank of Traylor; and Anna May, the wife of the Rev. W. W. Parks, a Congregational minister of Allison. All of the children were born upon the old homestead farm in this county. The sons are now Congregational ministers and the family are members of the Congregational church.

Mr. Gonzales has long taken an active part in church and temperance work. His political allegiance was always given to the republican party until the election of 1912. At that time he became identified with the progressive party, for he does not believe in the blind following of party leaders nor in legislation enacted for the benefit of the few rather than of the many. Fraternally he is connected with the Grand Army of the Republic, his military service entitling him to wear the little bronze button, an emblem



of honor and distinction to every American man, who rightfully possesses it. Mr. Gonzales has led a busy and useful, but quiet and unostentatious life and his sterling worth has gained him the high regard of all who know him.

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### JUDGE C. B. WESTON.

Judge C. B. Weston, one of the few remaining veterans of the Civil war, and one of the early residents in Butler county, where he has made his home since 1874, is numbered among the prominent and representative citizens of Greene, where for almost twenty-five years he has done farsighted and capable work as justice of the peace.

Judge Weston was born in Laporte, Indiana, in 1840, and acquired his education in the public schools of his native city. On the 6th of August, 1862, he enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining Company B, Seventy-third Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He went south with his command and participated in many of the most important engagements of the war, receiving a slight gunshot wound at Stone River where his regiment lost one hundred and twenty-five men. He took part also in the engagement at Blunt's farm, where his colonel was killed. He served until the close of the war, receiving his honorable discharge at Nashville, Tennessee, in 1865. During his service he was promoted from the rank of corporal to that of first sergeant, an office which he held when he was discharged. With this creditable military record, Judge Weston returned to Laporte, where for one year thereafter he engaged in general farming until 1866, when he sold his property and moved to Pleasant Grove township, Floyd county, Iowa, where he farmed and held various positions of public trust, including that of township trustee, school director and constable, until 1871, when he moved to Marble Rock, Iowa. After engaging in the furniture business there for three years he moved to Greene, being one of the first men to locate there. He worked on the construction of the flour mill and dam for about eighteen months and then established himself in the livery business, conducting a profitable enterprise of this character for several years. He was appointed notary public and afterward held many other important positions of public trust and responsibility, including that of Butler county

soldier's relief commissioner, in which he served for fifteen years. Eventually he was appointed by the county board of supervisors to fill out an unexpired term as justice of the peace, and he has been constantly reelected since that time, being now in the twenty-fifth year of his able and public-spirited service. His office is in a fine two-story brick building, which he owns and he has other valuable property holdings, including an attractive and modern house on the west side of the river.

At New Carlisle, St. Joseph county, Indiana, on the 4th of March, 1866, Judge Weston married Miss Sarah Isabelle Reynolds, a native of Indiana and a graduate of the New Carlisle Institute. Mrs. Weston died in Greene on the 15th of September, 1908, leaving four children: Frank L., a resident of British Columbia; Numa, a resident of Greene; Effie Pearl, who married James H. Cook of Indianapolis, Indiana; and Charles B., Jr., of Spokane, Washington.

Judge Weston is a Master Mason, holding membership in the blue lodge at Greene, and he is also identified with the Order of the Eastern Star. He is a member of Greene Post, No. 200, G. A. R., of which he was for ten years commander, and of which he is now adjutant. He holds a high place among the prominent and highest respected residents of Greene and is moreover entitled to representation in this volume as a veteran of the Civil war, to whom the country owes a debt of gratitude which can never be fully repaid.

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### EDWARD WEBSTER KESTER.

As the day with its morning of hope and promise, its noontide of activity, its evening of completed and successful effort ending in the grateful rest and quiet of the night, so was the life of this good man. Edward Webster Kester, who passed away on the 27th day of October, 1913, was greatly respected and revered in the community in which he so long made his home. He was for an extended period a resident of Butler county, becoming identified with its development and upbuilding more than thirty-one years prior to his death. He was born in Boston, Erie county, New York, on the 23d of June, 1834, and was the fourth in order of birth in a family of seven children, whose parents were Jeremiah and Elizabeth (Wilson) Kester, both of whom were natives of New Jersey. In early childhood they removed from

that state to Erie county, New York, in company with their parents, who drove across the country with ox teams to what was then the far west. The district in which they settled was largely wild and undeveloped. There were still many Indians to be seen and in many sections the work of tilling the soil seemed scarcely begun. Both the Kester and the Wilson families were identified with the Society of Friends, or Quakers. The grandparents and parents of Edward W. Kester remained residents of Erie county, New York, throughout their remaining days, the father passing away in 1884, when seventy-eight years of age, while the mother died when eighty-six years of age. They had a family of seven sons: Eber and Samuel, who died in childhood; Stephen, deceased; Edward W.; Josiah H., living in New York; Enos, who died in childhood; and Ellis, also a resident of the Empire state.

Edward W. Kester spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native county and in fact continued his residence in the Empire state until 1882, when he removed to Butler county, Iowa, where he continued to make his home until called to his final rest. While in New York he spent three years as a traveling salesman upon the road and the remainder of his time was given to agricultural pursuits. After coming to Iowa he again engaged in farming, but for twenty years prior to his demise made his home in Allison. At one time he was the owner of three hundred and seventy acres of rich and valuable land adjoining the town but eventually sold that property. In all of his active business life his agricultural interests were carefully managed and his business affairs wisely conducted, so that he derived therefrom a substantial and well merited competence.

On the 1st of March, 1860, Mr. Kester was united in marriage to Miss Adaline Jones, who was born in Erie county, New York, February 25, 1834, and died in this county March 31, 1898. There were three children of that marriage: Earl; Eva; and Lissa, who died in infancy. The son married and died seventeen days before the birth of his son, Newton, who was adopted by Mr. Kester, his paternal grandfather, and now resides in Greene, Iowa. He is married and has one child, Francis Edward. The daughter, Eva, is the wife of E. L. Hill, of Mason City, Iowa.

Mr. Kester was a republican in his political views and always kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He served as town assessor and as a member of the city council, in both of which offices he discharged his duties with promptness and

fideliity. He was reared in the faith of the Society of Friends and was a member of the church the time of his demise. Fraternally he was connected with Opal Lodge, No. 417, F. & A. M., of Allison, and was its treasurer for twenty-six years. His life always exemplified the beneficent spirit of the craft and he followed closely its teachings concerning mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. Mr. Kester was in his eightieth year at the time of his demise. One of the local papers wrote of him: "In all his career he has been a good neighbor, a true friend and an honest man and he closed a business life covering half a century with a most honorable record." All who knew him mourned his death, for he had been found straightforward and reliable in business, faithful in friendship and honorable in every relation.

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#### HENRY CLAY McNAMES.

A history of the pioneer settlement and later development of Butler county would be incomplete without mention of Henry Clay McNames, who settled in the locality in 1868 and has since remained an honored and respected resident. He was born in New York state, on the Hudson river, January 8, 1844, a son of William and Polly (White) McNames, both natives of New York state. In 1844 the family moved westward to Michigan, locating in Lenawee county, which was then a vast wilderness covered with primeval forest. William McNames died in Butler county in 1902. Henry Clay McNames grew to manhood in Michigan and from that state enlisted for service in the Union army, joining in 1862 Company B, Eighteenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He went south to Alabama with his regiment and there did provost duty and assisted in guarding the railroads. Mr. McNames was for sixteen months in Nashville and he served until the close of the war, receiving his honorable discharge at Jackson, Michigan, in July, 1865.

After he was mustered out Mr. McNames returned home and began learning the wagon-making trade at Fairfield, Michigan. In 1868, accompanied by his father and the other members of the family, he moved west to Iowa, locating in Dayton township, Butler county. Here Henry C. McNames purchased one hundred acres of land, partially improved, there being an old house upon it and forty acres under the plow. He cleared the remainder of the property and afterward added to it an adjoining tract of ten acres,

whereon he erected a house and barn and other necessary buildings. The McNames family still reside upon this property and in addition to its cultivation Mr. McNames of this review is engaged in business in Packard, where he purchased a repair shop in partnership with Mr. Holt, a blacksmith. He has secured a large patronage, for his work is first-class in every particular and his business methods at all times straightforward and honorable.

The McNames family is as follows: Henry Clay, of this review; Abraham, who served in the Civil war as a member of the Eleventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry; Mary, who lives with her brother, of this review; Mrs. Lucinda Chittenden, a widow; and Caspar, a resident of Colorado.

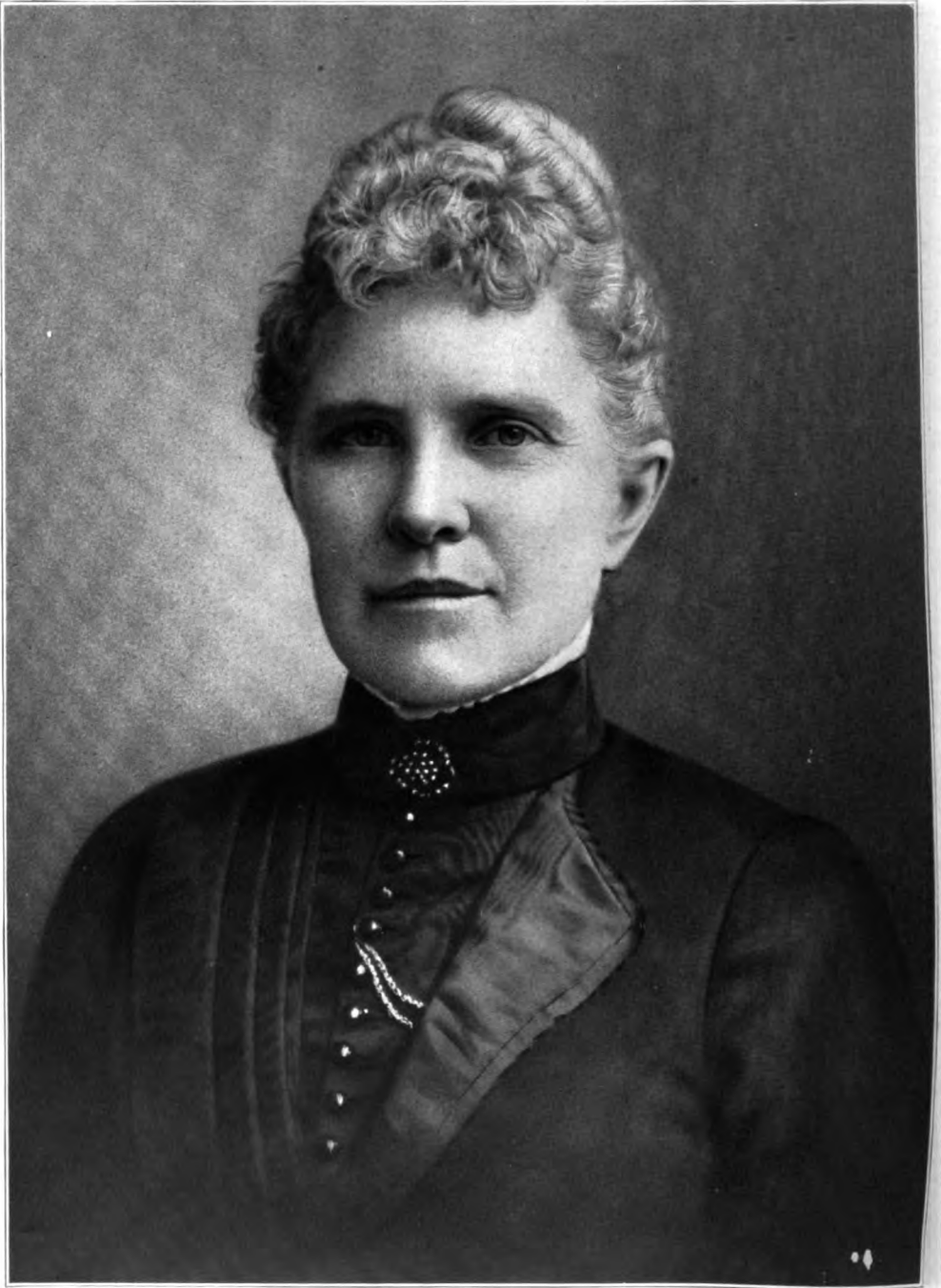
Mr. McNames gives his political allegiance to the republican party and although he has never sought public office, is interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community. He has been a resident of Dayton township for forty-five years and has witnessed a great deal of the development of this section of the state. His life has been active, industrious and straightforward and in its course he has worked his way steadily upward, at the same time gaining the good-will and confidence of the people of the community where he makes his home.

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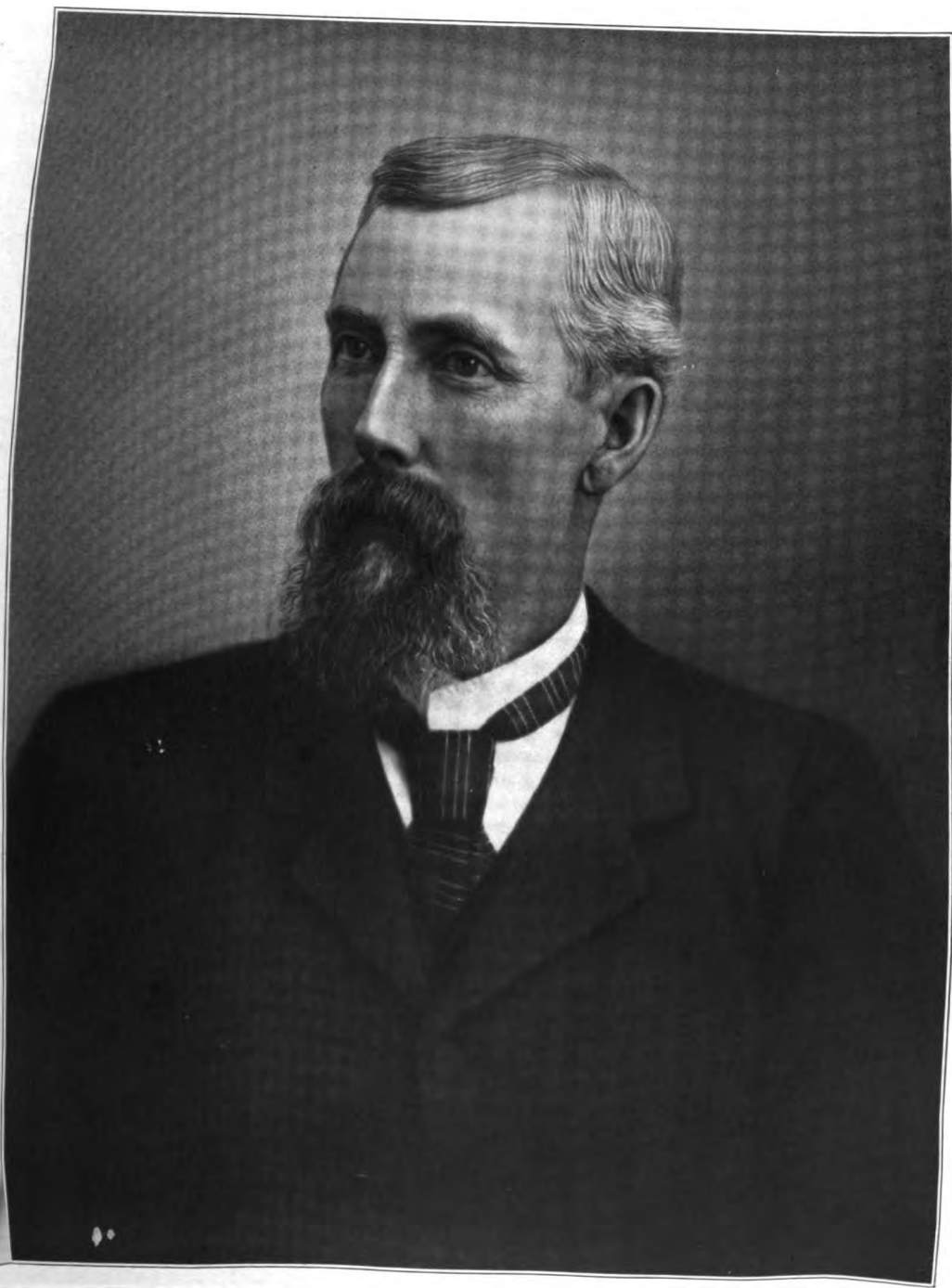
### IRVING MINOT FISHER.

Iowa leads the country in the production of corn and is scarcely second to any other state in the Union in the growing of other cereals and in stock-raising. Among those who have added to the fame of the state in the production of fine stock is Irving Minot Fisher, owner of the well known, historical and renowned Iowa Central Stock Farm, situated a mile and a half southwest of Allison, in West Point township, Butler county. It is without doubt one of the finest farms in the state. Upon the place are two large dwellings, one being the country home of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher, while the other is occupied by a tenant. There are several large barns, cattle sheds, a hog house, machinery houses and other modern equipments and improvements upon the place. The big white barn is a notable feature in the landscape and is the finest in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher came to this farm January 6, 1875, after he had entered into an agreement with its owner, Hon. H. L. Stout, of Dubuque, who was one of





MRS. IRVING M. FISHER



IRVING M. FISHER



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Iowa's best men and millionaires. Mr. Fisher accepted the position of superintendent of this farm, then comprising more than twenty-five hundred acres and recognized as the finest stock farm in the country, where the best horses and finest shorthorn cattle were kept that could be obtained in Europe and the United States. Through all the intervening years Mr. Fisher has been connected with the management and improvement of the farm and upon its division he purchased the tract of three hundred and twenty acres which he now owns.

A native son of New England, he was born in Williamstown, Massachusetts, his parents being Minot and Mary (Austin) Fisher, who were likewise natives of the old Bay state. The Fisher family was one of the old Colonial families, its founders in America being among the Puritans who settled in Dedham, Massachusetts, where they owned large estates. Representatives of the name also became founders of the Dedham Bank. One of the ancestors in England had a coat of arms bestowed upon him and this seal Joshua Fisher, the first member of the family to come to America, used on his will and also used in connection with the bank. The ancestral record of the family is one of which Irving M. Fisher has every reason to be proud, the line being traced back as far as 1585.

Having lost his mother when five years of age, Irving M. Fisher then lived with an uncle and aunt for two years, after which his father married again. He attended school in his native state until twelve years of age, when he went to Bennington, Vermont, in order to secure employment on a farm. He worked on the farm of Colonel Baker and at the same time was granted the privilege of spending some time in the public school. In the fall of 1857 he came to Iowa with Henry Baker, a son of Colonel Baker, who brought his family to the middle west, settling at Bradford, Iowa. Mr. Irving remained with them until July, 1861, when his patriotic spirit could no longer be content to remain at home while the country was engaged in civil war, so he enlisted as a member of Company B, Seventh Iowa Infantry. He continued to serve until honorably discharged because of disability at Pittsburg Landing in Tennessee, March 22, 1862. With his regiment he participated in the battle of Belmont and the sieges of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. After recovering his health he assisted in recruiting work and reenlisted October 12, 1862, as a member of Company C, Fourteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, in which he was made a sergeant. He acted in the ord-

nance department under General A. J. Smith, participating in the battle of Shiloh, the siege of Vicksburg, Tupelo, and then in the Red River expedition and was always on active duty, proving his loyalty to his country in many a situation that demanded marked valor and bravery. He was mustered out November 16, 1864, at Davenport, Iowa.

Mr. Fisher was married on the 1st of January, 1867, to Miss Mary J. Biggar, a teacher in the public schools. The wedding was celebrated in her father's home in the presence of a few friends by the Rev. John K. Nutting, pastor of the Congregational church. The bride was the third daughter of William and Elizabeth (Simpson) Biggar, of Franklin county, New York, and was born in Huntingdon, Huntingdon county, Quebec. She was a descendant of a family of educators of Scottish origin. They were also landowners and the town of Biggar in Lanarkshire was named in honor of the family. Mrs. Fisher was most carefully educated in a Christian home, received instruction in an academy and taught for a number of years in some of the best schools in Chickasaw county, ranking high as a student and always holding a first class teacher's certificate. She acquired a business education and possesses rare executive ability, which was greatly appreciated by Mr. Stout, the former owner, during the term of years in which Mr. and Mrs. Fisher were managing the farm. Mrs. Fisher is a lover of books and literature and her writings are valued by the press as well as by her many friends. She is and always has been a worker for the best interests of the public schools and her influence has been a potent force in promoting educational progress.

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher spent two years on a stock farm near Charles City, Iowa, previous to coming to the Iowa Central Stock Farm in Butler county, then owned by the late Hon. H. L. Stout. For seventeen years they superintended this farm, or until Mr. Stout decided to divide the large area of land, at which time they purchased the home place, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres. They have always maintained the same high standards in the control of the farm and in stock-raising and the property is unsurpassed by any stock farm in the state. Mr. Fisher handles only the highest grades of pure-bred stock and there is every equipment and convenience for the care of the animals and the improvement of the farm. Mr. Fisher is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and thus maintains pleasant relations with those with whom he was associated as a wearer of

the blue. He has been a lifelong republican and has enjoyed the acquaintance of a number of men prominent in public life, including Senator W. B. Allison, Speaker D. B. Henderson, Governor Gear and others. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher are members of the First Congregational church of Allison, of which they were virtually the founders. They have always contributed liberally toward its upbuilding and support. Mrs. Fisher is the founder of the Benevolent and Patriotic Society, which was organized in 1898 and is still doing good work. In fact, their influence is always on the side of progress, reform and improvement and they hold to the highest standards of citizenship and of conduct as well as of business honor.

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### FRANK H. BROCKMANN.

Success has crowned the efforts of Frank H. Brockmann, who now makes his home in Clarksville, where he owns a large and attractive modern residence. For an extended period he has been identified with farming and stock-raising in this county and on the 8th of August, 1910, he purchased a half interest in the Great Western Elevator and in lumber and coal yards. The business is conducted under the style of Muller & Brockmann, Frank H. Brockmann, however, taking little active part in its management, his son Martin relieving him of the necessity of activity in that connection. He is now vice president of the State Savings Bank of Clarksville and his name is an honored one in commercial and financial circles. His birth occurred in Guttenberg, Clayton county, Iowa, July 24, 1858, his parents being Barnard and Gesina (Johnson) Brockmann, both of whom were natives of Germany but came to America in 1846, sailing to New Orleans and thence proceeding up the Mississippi to St. Louis, where they were married. For two years they were residents of Dubuque, Iowa, and then removed to Guttenberg, where their remaining days were passed, the father dying in 1863, at the comparatively early age of forty-two years, while the mother passed away in 1884, at the age of fifty-eight years. Mr. Brockmann was engaged in the manufacture of brick until 1858, when he purchased land and later carried on farming to the time of his death. Five years after losing her first husband Mrs. Brockmann was married to Fritz Kretzmeyer. There were no children of that marriage, but seven were born of

her first union: Joseph, who is now living in Rockford, Illinois; Mary, who became the wife of William Buchholz and died in Clarksville; Margaret, the widow of Henry Lundt, of Butler township; Katie, the deceased wife of Mike Gorsche; Frank H.; Matilda, the widow of Henry Busching of Waverly, Iowa; and August, living in Clayton county.

Frank H. Brockmann was reared in the county of his nativity, spending his youthful days in the acquirement of an education and in farm work through the summer months, assisting his mother in the cultivation and improvement of the homestead. He remained in Clayton county up to the time of his marriage, which occurred on the 24th of January, 1884, the lady of his choice being Miss Anna Meyer, who was born in Clayton county, September 27, 1863, a daughter of William and Mary (Brandt) Meyer, natives of Germany. Coming to America about 1846, the father settled in Cincinnati and in Guttenberg, Iowa, he wedded Miss Mary Brandt, who crossed the Atlantic some time after he had made the voyage. Their last days were spent in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brockmann, the father, who was a farmer, passing away in 1903, at the age of seventy-five years, while the mother died in 1907, at the age of seventy-four years.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brockmann removed to Fremont township, Butler county, where they made their home continuously until 1912. He then retired from agricultural pursuits and the family removed to Clarksville, where he erected a beautiful and commodious residence in the modern style of architecture and equipped with all modern accessories and conveniences. His farm comprised two hundred and forty acres on sections 16 and 21, Fremont township, and was well improved by him. He raised the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and also made stock-raising a feature of his place. He was also connected with important business interests in Clarksville in partnership with his brother-in-law, George Meyer, but sold out. On the 8th of August, 1910, he purchased a half interest in the Great Western Elevator and in lumber and coal yards that are now owned by the firm of Muller & Brockmann. They deal not only in grain, lumber and coal, but also in cement and all kinds of building material. Mr. Brockmann does not take an active part in the management of the business, however, but leaves this to his son Martin, for whom he purchased it. He is the vice president of the State Savings Bank of Clarksville and is now acting as president in the absence of that officer. He still owns his farm property in this county and recently

disposed of farming interests in Minnesota. He was the first treasurer of the Butler-Bremer Telephone Company and continued in that position until his removal to Clarksville in 1912.

While his business affairs have been extensive and important Mr. Brockmann has also had time to capably perform the duties of citizenship and in that connection has fully met every obligation that has devolved upon him. He has always given his political allegiance to the democratic party and was its nominee for the office of county treasurer in 1912, at which time he received a large vote. For twenty-seven years he was school treasurer of district No. 5, Fremont township, and for many years he was a trustee and during the last six years of his residence in Fremont township he filled the office of assessor.

Mr. and Mrs. Brockmann became the parents of six children, but lost their first-born, Carrie, at the age of five years, and their third child, Lydia, when a year and a half old. Those who still survive are Martin, Hulda, Albert and Edwin. The first named, residing with his father, now conducts the grain, lumber and coal business. The parents are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church of Clarksville and their influence is always on the side of progress, reform, justice and truth. The life record of Mr. Brockmann may well serve to inspire and encourage others, for he came to this county empty-handed, his only capital being industry and commendable ambition. He realized that there is no royal road to wealth, but that persistent effort, thrift and honesty will bring one at length to the goal of prosperity. He therefore cultivated those qualities and he is today one of the substantial citizens of the county. The most envious cannot grudge him his success, so honorably has it been won, so worthily used.

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### JOHN NEVINS, M. D.

Dr. John Nevins, a resident of Greene for the past thirty years and today accounted one of the most prominent and representative members of the medical profession in Butler county, was born in Laporte, Indiana, June 11, 1857. His parents afterward moved to Valparaiso, where he began his education, later taking a high-school course in Hampton. His parents passed away when he was a mere boy, and his progress in the world has been due to his own efforts and determination. There were three small children at the:

time of the parents' death. Our subject attended Lombard University at Galesburg, and after leaving he taught school two years in various places, after which he moved to Greene. In this city he engaged in the drug business for some time, being a registered pharmacist, and this led to his interest in the science of medicine, which he studied under a preceptor for two years. He then took three courses of lectures at Rush Medical College in Chicago and was graduated from that institution with the degree of M. D. in 1886. Immediately afterward he formed a partnership with Dr. Huckins and engaged in general practice. After four years the association was discontinued and since that time Dr. Nevins has been alone. In the course of years he has built up a large and representative practice and has won a high place in public regard, for he has become known as a conscientious, skillful and able physician, well versed in underlying medical principles and keenly alive to the responsibilities which his profession entails upon him. He has remained always a close and earnest student, keeping in touch with the most advanced medical thought, and in addition to this he completed in 1900 an extensive post-graduate course. He built and operates a hospital in Greene and is greatly interested in the growth of the institution, which is completely appointed, being provided with neat and well furnished apartments for patients and a well equipped operating room.

In Greene, in 1904, Dr. Nevins was united in marriage to Miss Bessie Haggerty, who was born in the vicinity of that city. Dr. Nevins is independent in his political views, supporting men and measures rather than parties. He has never sought public office, however, for his attention is centered upon his profession, in which he has won that distinction and prominence which come only as the result of unusual merit and ability and which are especially praiseworthy when, as in the case of Dr. Nevins, they have been gained by one who from early youth has been compelled to rely solely upon his own powers and resources.

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### MURRY P. JONES.

Among the citizens of Butler county who have been identified with her agricultural interests, but have won success sufficient to enable them to now live retired is Murry P. Jones, of Allison, who at one time was the owner of an excellent tract of land in this

section which he brought under a high state of cultivation, converting it into a model farm. He was born in Erie county, New York, August 3, 1839. His father, Nathaniel Jones, was a native of Montgomery county, New York, and became a pioneer of Erie county, to which he removed in 1814. He had previously served for one year as a soldier in the War of 1812. He was married in Erie county to Miss Adaline Spaulding, a native of New England and their remaining days were passed on a farm in that county, the mother only being about forty-four years of age at the time of her demise, while the father reached the advanced age of seventy-four years. They had a family of four sons and six daughters, of whom Murry P. Jones is the youngest son, although three of the daughters were younger members of the family. Four of the daughters are still living and two of the sons, the brother of our subject being J. M. Jones of Anamosa, Iowa.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for Murry P. Jones in his boyhood and youth. He worked in the fields through the summer months and attended school in the winter seasons, and after reaching manhood he engaged in farming in Erie county, New York until 1879, when at the age of forty years, he came to Butler county, and has since resided within three miles of his present home. He made farming his life work, but retired about twelve years ago. He was the owner of a quarter section of rich land which he brought under a high state of cultivation, transforming it into productive fields from which he annually gathered good harvests.

On the 14th of November, 1867, Mr. Jones married Miss Amelia Horton, who was born in Erie county, New York, July 17, 1847, a daughter of Hiram and Jane (Underhill) Horton, who were natives of New York and spent their entire lives upon farms in Erie county, where their parents had located in pioneer times removing from the eastern part of the state to Erie county, where they experienced the usual hardships and privations incident to pioneer life in a forest country. Mrs. Jones was the third in a family of five children and by her marriage has become the mother of five children. Dr. Perry Horton Jones, the eldest, is a dentist and farmer living near Fort Meyer, Florida; Lenora J., is the wife of Grant Hardman of Park Rapids, Minnesota; Ward Murry has been a teacher in the agricultural college at Ames since his graduation therefrom in 1897; Ira Weston, who was graduated from Ames in 1903, studied law for two years in Des Moines and then went to Yale, completing his course there in 1906, since which



time he has practiced his profession at Clear Lake, Iowa; and Helen M., who is a graduate of the domestic science department of the Ames agricultural college, is now teaching in the State Agricultural College of Kansas at Manhattan. The eldest son is a graduate of the dental department of the State University at Iowa City. The youngest daughter is a native of Butler county, but the other children were born in Erie county, New York, although reared in this state. The son, Ward M., now has a leave of absence for one year and is giving his time to alumni work in Iowa. He has edited and managed the paper called the *Alumnus* for several years.

Mr. Jones was reared in the Universalist faith and has led an upright, honorable life. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and he has always given his political support to the republican party since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He has never sought nor desired office, however, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which have been capably managed and have brought him the success that now enables him to live retired.

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### M. F. STANTON.

M. F. Stanton, familiarly known as Colonel Stanton, is one of the most successful farmers and stock-raisers of Coldwater township, owning and operating a fine farm of one hundred and twenty-two acres on section 8. He is moreover an auctioneer of considerable reputation, and he has made this branch of his activity very important. He has lived in Iowa since 1867 and in Butler county since 1884, but he was born in Washington county, Wisconsin, December 27, 1865. His father, Thomas Stanton, was a native of New York and there grew to manhood and married Miss Anna Martin. After his marriage he moved west to Wisconsin, settling in Washington county where he resided for a few years. In 1867 he moved to Iowa, locating in Chickasaw county, where he purchased land and opened up a farm, engaging in agricultural pursuits in that locality for many years.

M. F. Stanton was reared in Chickasaw county, remaining upon the homestead until he was seventeen years of age. He then moved to Butler county where he worked as a monthly farm laborer for seven or eight years. In 1893 he located in Greene and turned his



MR. AND MRS. M. F. STANTON

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attention to the livery business, conducting a profitable enterprise of this character for three years. He later purchased a farm in Coldwater township, but sold this property in 1899, buying a farm in Bennezette township of one hundred and twenty acres, which he farmed for five years, selling this in 1904. He then bought the place upon which he now resides. Upon it he has erected substantial buildings and he has installed modern labor saving machinery, keeping everything about the place up-to-date in every particular. He engages in general farming and is also extensively interested in stock-raising, keeping graded cattle, horses, hogs and sheep. The farmers' annual picnic, an occasion of much importance to the community, is held in the beautiful walnut grove situated on Mr. Stanton's present farm. In 1909 he took a course in auctioneering at Trenton, Missouri, and in a class of sixty-five students, passed his examination with a very high average grade, reaching as high as ninety-eight in some departments. Since completing this course he has conducted a number of sales in Butler, Floyd, Bremer and other counties and is well known as a successful auctioneer.

On the 23d of May, 1893, in Greene, Mr. Stanton married Miss Teresa Downing, a daughter of J. E. Downing and a sister of P. J. Downing, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Stanton was born and reared in Butler county and was for some years engaged in teaching. She and her husband are the parents of four children: Catherine Anna; Ella Marie; Leo Ambrose; and Teresa Genevieve. Politically Mr. Stanton is a stanch democrat and is interested in public affairs, although not active as an office seeker. He and his wife are members of the Greene Catholic church and are people of exemplary character, commanding and holding the respect and warm regard of all who come in contact with them.

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#### JAMES P. MARTIN.

James P. Martin is a self-made man and as the architect of his own fortunes has builded wisely and well. He knows what hard labor means and he also knows that success will crown earnest, persistent and honorable effort. He is today the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, one-half of which lies on section 25, Jackson township, and the remainder across the division

line, in Butler township. It is, however, all in one farm. Mr. Martin is a native of Northamptonshire, England. He was born October 1, 1850, and is the eighth in a family of fifteen children, whose parents, John and Hannah (Perrin) Martin, spent their entire lives in England, where the father was a shepherd. Three of the children, William, James and Mrs. Katharine Shannon, now of Kansas, came to the United States.

James P. Martin spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native country. He had few advantages but he was ambitious to make the most of his opportunities and believed that he might more rapidly win success in the United States. Accordingly, in June, 1871, he crossed the briny deep and made his way direct to Clarksville, coming by stage from Waverly to this place. He has resided in this county continuously since and throughout the entire time has been connected with farming interests. He did not have a dollar when he arrived and, in fact, was in debt for most of his passage. He was industrious, however, and did not fear earnest, persistent labor. He worked out by the month for five years and six months and then rented land for about ten years, during which time he carefully saved his earnings until his perseverance and industry enabled him to purchase land. He has since owned two other farms and his possessions now comprise one hundred and sixty acres of rich and arable land lying in Jackson and Butler townships. The place is well improved and he has brought his fields to a high state of cultivation. This farm was secured from the government by Douglas Marquand, who sold it to his son, from whom James P. Martin was the purchaser.

On the 13th of March, 1877, Mr. Martin was united in marriage to Miss Hattie R. Shadbolt, who was born in Clarksville, April 17, 1850, and is a daughter of Jerome and Louise Shadbolt. Her father is now deceased but the mother resides in Clarksville and the family history is given on another page of this work. Mr. and Mrs. Martin are the parents of five children: Lulu Hannah, the wife of W. J. Sutcliff, of Waterloo, Iowa; Anna Margaret, the wife of Robert Burroughs, of Jackson township; John J., at home; Orin William, of Waterloo; and Charles Levant, also of Waterloo.

Politically Mr. Martin has always been a republican until the last election, when he became identified with the progressive wing of the party. He is now serving for the fifth year as township trustee and has made a creditable record in public office. He has

also filled a number of school offices and is a staunch believer in the cause of public education as one of the bulwarks of the nation. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic lodge and religiously with the Methodist Episcopal church at Clarksville. His life record may well serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, showing what may be accomplished. One seeing him comfortably situated upon his pleasant farm in Butler county can hardly realize what a period of toil was encompassed in his youth and early manhood. For a few years he worked on a farm with teams in England and his last four years in that country were spent as a gamekeeper on an estate of five thousand acres in Northamptonshire. During the first two years and a half of his residence in America he worked in Coldwater with his brother William, who now resides in Jackson township, and during several succeeding years he was employed by his uncle, Jeremiah Perrin. He always held to the laudable ambition of one day becoming the owner of a farm and he never lost sight of this purpose, which he ultimately realized, winning a foremost place among the substantial and prosperous farmers of his community. He and his wife made their first trip back to their old home in England in 1912 and it was a most pleasurable occasion, renewing the friendships of early youth and looking upon the scenes amid which his childhood was passed.

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#### JAMIN B. TRACY.

Jamin B. Tracy, who has been engaged in the nursery business for about twenty years, during the past ten of which he has maintained his nursery in Greene, is a native son of Butler county, born in Coldwater township, November 12, 1870. His father, Edward Tracy, was born in New York state, May 16, 1835, and was reared and educated there. On February 25, 1856, he married Miss Hannah B. Backus, a native of Genesee county and soon afterward they moved west to Iowa, arriving in Butler county, March 18, 1857. The father preempted land in Coldwater township, securing one hundred and seventeen acres, to which he later added eighty acres, which he purchased. Upon this property he made substantial improvements and he continued to carry forward the work of its development until 1910, when he sold the place and purchased a home in Greene, where he has since lived

retired. For a number of years he was identified with the local republican organization and he has held various positions of public trust. He supported John C. Fremont in 1856 and since the organization of the republican party, has voted for every republican nominee, until 1912, when he joined the ranks of the progressives. He and his wife became the parents of five children: Rachel Ann, who married R. Palmatier, and who died April 13, 1913, leaving one son; Charles H., residing in Greene; Carrie, the wife of Frank Harlenske, of Pratt, Kansas; Jamin B., of this review; and Nettie, who lives at home.

Jamin B. Tracy was reared upon the home farm and acquired his education in the country schools. His advantages along this line, however, were limited and he is largely self-educated. He remained upon his father's property until he was twenty-five years of age, and then turned his attention to the nursery business, establishing a nursery upon the farm in 1893. In partnership with his brother, Charles H. Tracy, he acquired about twenty acres which he planted in nursery stock and evergreens, building up a large and representative patronage and continuing in his original location for about eight years.

There are numerous farms throughout Butler county which have excellent fruit trees, which were supplied from the Tracy nursery. There are also a number of groves of white and Scotch pines and Norway balsam firs, which came from the same source. In 1903 the nursery stock was moved to Greene, Jamin B. Tracy purchasing a tract of land on the west side of the city. His success has continued uninterrupted and he is today numbered among the progressive and substantial business men of the city. In 1905 he established a lumberyard in connection with his nursery, putting in a good supply of lumber and building material, and he now controls an important and growing trade along this line.

On the 3d of July, 1895, in Elma, Iowa, Mr. Tracy married Miss Elcina McDonnell, who was born and reared in Howard county, but later moved to Floyd county. She was educated in Marble Rock and was a teacher for a number of years. She is the daughter of John and Christina (Fallgatter) McDonnell, natives of Canada and Wisconsin respectively and early settlers of Howard county, Louisiana. Mrs. McDonnell died February 17, 1895. Mr. McDonnell is now a resident of Roberts, Idaho. Mr. and Mrs. Tracy became the parents of three children: Mearl V.; Edward Daniel; and Lucile E. Mrs. Tracy is a poultry fancier of considerable reputation, and breeds white Plymouth Rock

chickens and white Pekin ducks and white Embden geese. She has entered exhibits at numerous poultry shows and has taken a number of premiums. Mr. Tracy is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he has served through all the chairs and is now past grand. He and his wife are members of the Rebekahs and they attend the Methodist Episcopal church. They are people of the highest respectability well known and greatly esteemed throughout Coldwater township where they have a representative circle of friends.

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### MISS GRACE E. DREHER.

Miss Grace E. Dreher is filling the office of recorder of Butler county and the record she has made in this position is a refutation of the statement that a woman will lose her womanly qualities if in office. Thoroughly capable and competent, the duties of the position are discharged in a prompt and businesslike way and at the same time Miss Dreher is socially one of the attractive young ladies of the county seat. She was born near Warner in Brown county, South Dakota, April 1, 1886, a daughter of Frank and Clara (Bernard) Dreher. The father was born in Naperville, Illinois, August 14, 1855, and the mother in Helena, Wisconsin, August 26, 1863. They were married at Aberdeen, South Dakota, November 19, 1884. In 1888, owing to the hard times in that state they drove across the country to Iowa and settled on a farm between Dumont and Bristow. When their daughter, Grace, was seven years of age they removed to Allison, where they have since resided and here the father followed the carpenter's trade, being actively identified with building operations in the county seat and through the surrounding district.

Miss Dreher, an only child, has resided in Allison since seven years of age. She passed through consecutive grades in the public schools until graduated from the high school of Allison in May, 1902. In the following August she entered the county recorder's office as assistant under John Hunt and so continued until January 1, 1906. She spent the next year in the county treasurer's office and the following four years was deputy county auditor. At the primary in 1910, she was nominated for her present position and in the fall of 1912 she received indorsement of her first term's service in a reelection, being given a large vote on both occasions.



In 1910 she had no opposition and in 1912 had no opposition in the primaries but had an opponent in the election. She was the candidate of the republican party and her course has justified the confidence and trust reposed in her. She had had thorough training in the work of the office and she has made an excellent official, qualified in every particular to discharge the duties devolving upon her.

She belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and is highly esteemed socially in the county, having a very large circle of warm friends.

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### W. S. MONTGOMERY.

A citizen of high repute, well known and widely respected throughout Butler county is W. S. Montgomery of Allison. He was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, February 16, 1853, a son of James and Sarah (Glew) Montgomery, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, the former born September 8, 1819, and the latter February 28, 1825. The father became a resident of Dubuque county in 1836 and the following year the mother arrived in company with her parents. It was in that county that they became acquainted and in 1840 were married. Mr. Montgomery continued to reside there until September 3, 1886, when he was called to the home beyond and the mother died in Ledyard, Iowa, November 27, 1909. She was for seventy-two consecutive years a resident of this state and few of Iowa's citizens lived to watch her growth and progress for a longer period. Mr. Montgomery was a farmer by occupation and in 1848 secured land which he developed into a fine farm on which he made his home until his death. It was situated sixteen miles northwest of Dubuque in Concord township, Dubuque county, and he led the life of the usual pioneer settler who takes advantage of the early opportunities offered and eventually wins success. Unto him and his wife were born eleven children, of whom three died in childhood, while six, three sons and three daughters, are yet living. W. S. Montgomery had five brothers and five sisters and he was the middle one of the family. His eldest brother, Joseph, enlisted in August, 1861, in the Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and died in the service in November, 1863. All of the other sons of the family became farm-

ers save the youngest, who is a traveling salesman and the daughters all married farmers.

W. S. Montgomery was reared in his native county which remained his place of residence until 1880. For a time he worked on the farm and taught school in the winter months, but he regarded this merely as an initial step to other professional labor and took up the study of law, being graduated from the law department of the Iowa State University at Iowa City in 1875. Being without money, he resorted to school teaching to supply his immediate wants and was thus engaged until 1879, when he went to Dubuque and spent a year in the law office of J. C. Longueville. He then came to Clarksville, Butler county, where he entered upon the practice of law in connection with C. A. L. Roszell, but after a year and a half the firm of Roszell & Montgomery was dissolved. The latter practiced alone until September, 1882, when he was elected clerk of Butler county and entered upon the duties of the office January 1, 1883. He served for four years or two terms, at the end of which time he bought an interest in the abstract and law business of Lathrop & Levis, with whom he continued until 1893, under the firm name of Lathrop, Levis & Montgomery. In that year they sold out to the Craig-Ray Abstract Company and Mr. Montgomery concentrated his energies upon the practice of law in which he is now engaged. He is an able member of the bar, easily recognizing the salient points in a case and presenting his cause strongly and logically, his arguments seldom failing to win favorable verdict.

In November, 1884, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Montgomery and Miss Florence Peet, who was born near Clarksville, Iowa, April 24, 1863, a daughter of G. R. and Sarah (Parsons) Peet, who were natives of New York state. They came to Iowa after their marriage, casting in their lot with the pioneer settlers of Butler county. The father was killed in a railroad accident near Cedar Rapids in 1879 and the mother died in Allison in 1901. After coming to Iowa, Mr. Peet began farming and eventually became known as a dealer in fine stock. He brought the first blooded cattle and horses to this county and was a prominent stock man. He was very energetic and persistent in his business affairs and he built and conducted a hotel at Clarksville, of which he was proprietor at the time of his death. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery were born two children: James I., who died at the age of four months and Sarah Ruth, the wife of H. W. Mercereau of Long Beach, California. In 1902 Mr. Montgomery went to Long Beach

for the benefit of his wife's health, remaining there for five years.

Mrs. Montgomery passed away in 1907 and he then returned to Allison, where he still makes his home. He has been a life long republican and in 1911 was appointed county attorney to fill a vacancy. The following year he was nominated and elected, but resigned the office in January, 1913, to resume the private practice of law. For a short time he served on the city council, but public office has had little attraction for him. In May, 1884, he was made a Mason, his membership being in Opal Lodge, No. 417. F. & A. M., Allison. The same year he joined the chapter and commandery and is now a Knight Templar, loyal to the teachings of the order and exemplifying in his life the beneficent spirit of the craft. Few of the native sons of Iowa have longer resided within her boundaries. He has made a creditable record as a member of the bar and as a citizen, and enjoys in high degree the confidence, good-will and respect of his fellow townsmen.

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### EPHRAIM TOWN.

The name of Ephraim Town is closely associated with the history of Shell Rock, where he established the first hardware store in 1873. He has since been identified with other lines of business and at all times has been a progressive citizen, his labors contributing to general prosperity and advancement as well as to individual success.

Born in Franklin, Vermont, April 15, 1832, he is a son of Ephraim and Jane (Willis) Town, the former a native of the Green Mountain state, while the latter was born near Queenstown, Canada, just across the Vermont border. Both died in Franklin, Mr. Town on the 13th of March, 1864, at the age of seventy-three years, nine months and twenty-two days and Mrs. Town March 18, 1884, at the age of eighty-three years, one month and twenty-nine days. The Town and Willis families are both of English origin. Ephraim Town, Sr., was a soldier in the War of 1812 and in days of peace followed agricultural pursuits. He was twice married and by the first union had three daughters, while the children of the second marriage were eleven in number, two daughters and nine sons.



EPHRAIM TOWN

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Ephraim Town, whose name introduces this review, pursued his education in the schools of Vermont and remained in that state until twenty-two years of age. He spent the winter of 1854 in Chicago, hauling grain to the boats, and in the spring of 1855 he arrived in Shell Rock. The following year he began work at the carpenter's trade in connection with the construction of mills here. He followed carpentering for a number of years and with Hiram Ross operated a planing mill and made the first coffin used for an interment in the Shell Rock cemetery. Later Mr. Town became actively connected with merchandising as one of the proprietors of the first hardware store of Shell Rock, being in partnership with J. D. Powers. The business was established in 1873 and was conducted for three years when the firm became Town & Murray. Mr. Town next engaged in the lumber and grain business as a member of the firm of Phillips, Town & Company, continuing in that line for three years and subsequently he spent a number of years in the creamery business. He has always manifested enterprise, energy and determination in carrying on his business affairs and has ever been found thoroughly reliable as well as progressive. He always enjoyed good health until 1912, when he suffered a slight stroke of apoplexy. He is a man of splendid physique, being six feet and two inches in height and weighing usually two hundred pounds.

Mr. Town has some valuable land holdings, consisting of considerable town property and three hundred and sixty acres of valuable farming land. In 1895 he retired from active business, having sold out his creamery and now lives a retired life in his beautiful home on the banks of the Shell Rock river. He is a fine type of highly successful business man, entirely self-made, coming here without a dollar and now one of the most prosperous men in the county.

In 1860 in Shell Rock, Mr. Town was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Adair, who was born in Linn county, Iowa, October 6, 1841, and came to this county with her parents, George W. and Elizabeth Adair. She died in Shell Rock, June 29, 1895, leaving five children; Charles, who is engaged in the hardware business with his brother, Willis, at Dumont, this county; Ella L., the wife of Arthur Austin of Shell Rock; Willis, of Dumont; Dana E., a resident farmer of Shell Rock township; and Flora E., the wife of Fred G. McInroy. Since the mother's death Mr. and Mrs. McInroy have resided with Mr. Town. In fact she has acted as her father's housekeeper from the age of thirteen.

In politics Mr. Town has been a life long democrat. He was elected the first mayor of Shell Rock and has served for three terms since then. His administration has been characterized by needed reforms and improvements and his public record is a most creditable one. For many years he was justice of the peace and his decisions have ever been strictly fair and impartial. He has also been a member of the school board for many years and for twenty years served as its president and was a member of the building committee at the time of the erection of the new school. He has been identified with the school board altogether for thirty years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion, whose labors in its behalf have been effective and far-reaching. Since the organization of the Methodist Episcopal church in Shell Rock his name has been on its membership roll. In fact he was a member of the official board when the church was organized and he was a member of the building committee at the time of the erection of the present house of worship. He belongs to Escallop Lodge, No. 261, A. F. & A. M., of which he has been treasurer for many years; Jethro Chapter, R. A. M., of Waverly; Baldwin Commandery, K. T., of Cedar Falls; and El Kahir Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., of Cedar Rapids. He has also attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and belongs to the Eastern Star. His life exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft and throughout his entire career he has closely followed the principles which he has adopted. He is now a venerable citizen of eighty-one years and receives the respect and honor which should ever be accorded one of his years whose life has been well spent. Every one in Shell Rock knows Ephraim Town and none speak of him except in terms of praise.

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### GEORGE BARNETT.

George Barnett, who is one of the active and prosperous farmers of Bennezette township and one of the influential and representative citizens of this locality, was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, September 21, 1851. He is a son of Longridge and Sarah (Lowen) Barnett, natives of England, the father having been born and reared in the vicinity of London and the mother being a native of that city. Longridge Barnett came to America in 1845 and settled in New York, whence after a short time he

moved to Pennsylvania and there engaged in farming. He afterward came west to Iowa, locating in Dubuque county, where he remained until 1866. In that year he moved to Butler county and for thirty-four years thereafter was prominently connected with agricultural interests of this locality. When he disposed of his holdings here he moved to Nebraska, where he spent the last years of his life.

George Barnett accompanied his parents to Butler county in 1866, when he was fifteen years of age, and he aided his father in improving and developing the farm in Bennezette township. After reaching maturity he remained upon the homestead for a short time, but in 1873 purchased a farm on section 11. This comprised one hundred and sixty acres and Mr. Barnett cultivated it for a number of years, making it a valuable and productive property. About 1883 he moved to Vancouver, Washington, and there spent four years in the lumber business, moving from that city to Portland, Oregon, where he conducted a sawmill and engaged in the manufacture of lumber for some time. He later returned to Vancouver and was connected with a large lumber manufacturing company there as a log buyer for four years. In 1895 he returned to Iowa and, settling in Butler county, bought the property upon which he still resides. He owns a well improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres in sections 22 and 27, Bennezette township, and upon this has erected substantial buildings and set out a grove of forest and pine trees, which forms an excellent wind-break for his buildings. In connection with general farming Mr. Barnett is also a stock breeder and dealer, keeping a herd of thirty head of pure-blood and high-grade Aberdeen Angus cattle. He raises also Duroc Jersey hogs and heavy work horses. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company of Aredale and was one of the promoters of the Bennezette Telephone Company, of which he is president.

Mr. Barnett has been twice married. He wedded first, on November 25, 1883, Miss Elvira J. Alexander, who was born and reared in Canada, coming to Butler county when she was eighteen years of age. She passed away in 1899, leaving one son, Clarence E., who is aiding in the operation of the home farm. On the 13th of January, 1900, in Bennezette township, Mr. Barnett married Mrs. Katie (Reed) De Armoun, who was born and reared in the vicinity of Dumont. Mrs. Barnett has one daughter by her former marriage, Eula, who is now the wife of E. C. Miller, a farmer of Bennezette township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Barnett have been born



four children, Raymond R., Ruth R., Florence May and Alice Cora.

Mr. Barnett gives his political allegiance to the republican party and stands high in its councils, having served as delegate to numerous county and state conventions and having held various positions of public trust and responsibility. He has rendered excellent service on both the grand and petit juries and is now in his fifth term as assessor, discharging the duties of this office in a creditable and able manner. He and his wife are members of the Wesleyan Methodist church, of which Mr. Barnett has been trustee for years, and they are people of exemplary character, highly esteemed and respected wherever they are known.

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### THOMAS BETTESWORTH.

Thomas Bettesworth is numbered among the pioneers in Iowa, his residence in this state dating from 1865. He has lived in Butler county since 1872 and during the entire period of his residence here has been closely connected with agricultural interests, winning success, which places him among the men of marked ability and substantial worth in the community. He was born in England, August 24, 1837, a son of George and Mary (Marchant) Bettesworth, both natives of England. The son acquired his education in the public schools of his native country. As a young man he emigrated to America, coming directly to Iowa and settling in Lyons, Clinton county, in 1865. He made his home with his brother and sister for two years and then in 1867 moved to Jackson county, where he engaged in gardening. He later established a nursery in which he raised a variety of fruit trees as well as evergreen and ornamental trees, having at one time fifteen acres planted in nursery stock. In 1872 he moved to Butler county and purchased three tracts of land in Coldwater township, his entire holdings amounting to one hundred and thirty-two acres. He later sold portions of this property and by buying adjoining pieces has his farm now all in one tract. He has added to and remodeled his house and fenced and cross fenced his fields, erected substantial buildings and set out an orchard and a grove. The farm is today one of the most attractive and valuable in this section of the state and it reflects everywhere the many years of care and labor which the owner has bestowed upon it. In addition to

general farming, Mr. Bettesworth engages in stock-raising, keeping a good grade of cattle, a number of horses and some Duroc Jersey hogs, which he considers the best species for fattening for the market.

Mr. Bettesworth has been twice married. He wedded first in Jackson county, Miss Abbie Wright, who passed away in 1890, leaving two sons; the elder, Lyman resides in Texas where he is connected with a lumber company. Walter is married and engaged in farming in Butler county. Mr. Bettesworth had another son by his first marriage, who died in childhood. In 1894 Mr. Bettesworth wedded Mrs. Louisa France, a native of Germany, but reared in the United States. They have become the parents of a son, George L., who is aiding in the operation of the homestead.

Mr. Bettesworth was for several years road supervisor of Coldwater township and he was for some time closely identified with school affairs. He is a progressive, public-spirited and able citizen and is well and favorably known in Coldwater township, with the development and growth of which he has identified his interests for over forty years. Although he has reached the age of seventy-six, he is still active in the world's work and seems yet in his prime in spirit and interests. A man of high character and sterling worth, he enjoys the confidence and warm regard of all who know him.

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### F. H. VOSS.

F. H. Voss is engaged in the grain and live-stock business at Clarksville and close application and energy are constituting the foundation upon which he is building his success. Like many substantial citizens of the county, he is of German birth, the place of his nativity being Nienberg, Hanover, while the date is April 27, 1876. His parents, Fritz and Wilhelmina (Nordmann) Voss, were also natives of Hanover, the former born January 27, 1854, and the latter on the 4th of February, 1853. They came to Butler county, Iowa, in 1882, and settled on a farm six miles northeast of Clarksville, in Fremont township, where they resided until they retired about five years ago, taking up their abode in Clarksville. The father is a carpenter by trade, following that pursuit in his native land, but after coming to America he devoted his

energies to farming. The family numbered four children: F. H.; Louise, who is the widow of H. W. Miller, of Fremont township; Millosine, the wife of F. A. Nordmann, of Butler township; and William J., who is living on the old homestead in Fremont township. The two eldest came with their parents to the United States and the two youngest were born in this county.

F. H. Voss remained under the parental roof until the time of his marriage, when he began farming on his own account, establishing his home five miles northeast of Clarksville, in Butler township. After devoting three years to the tilling of the soil he removed to the town and opened a meat market, which he conducted for a year. He then began buying and shipping stock, which business he has followed for the past decade. He conducted a dairy for five years which he sold out in 1910. He owns a half interest in the Rock Island grain elevator at Clarksville in connection with a partner, C. P. Christensen, under the firm style of Voss & Christensen, the partnership having been in existence for two years. His property interests likewise include two farms in this county, one of two hundred and forty acres and the other of one hundred and sixty acres. He also has two farms in Minnesota, one of eighty acres in Chippewa county, together with a tract of land of two hundred acres in Yellow Medicine county. In all of his business affairs he seems to prosper. His judgment is sound, his sagacity keen and his enterprise unfaltering. He seems ever to recognize the possibility for success and discriminates readily between the essential and the non-essential in all business transactions. His father had only enough to buy furniture and two cows when the family arrived in America and F. H. Voss has made all that he has with little assistance from his father. His determined purpose has enabled him to carry forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes and in managing his private business interests he has also contributed to the general prosperity.

On the 4th of October, 1900, Mr. Voss was united in marriage to Miss Millosine Nordmann, who was born in Hanover, Germany, February 4, 1880, and in 1892 was brought to Butler county by her parents, Henry A. and Caroline (Frietag) Nordmann, who are now living retired in Clarksville. Mr. and Mrs. Voss are members of the German Evangelical church and this is also the faith of the family. Throughout his entire life Mr. Voss has displayed the sterling traits of character of the German race and has made himself a valued citizen, contributing largely to the com-

mercial enterprise and agricultural development of this part of the state. He has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance and no history of Clarksville would be complete without mention of him.

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### LEMUEL WYGLE.

Lemuel Wygle, one of the well known farmers and progressive and influential citizens of Dayton township, owning and operating a valuable farm of two hundred acres on section 34, was born June 17, 1854, and is a son of Corbin Wygle. The father was a native of Union county, Ohio, and grew to manhood there. He moved to Iowa in 1854, purchasing a tract of land in Dayton township, Butler county. This he cleared, fenced and improved and for many years thereafter carried forward the work of its development and cultivation, becoming one of the well known and substantial farmers of this locality. He died in February, 1898.

Lemuel Wygle was reared upon his father's farm, acquiring his education in the district schools. He made his first purchase of land in Jackson township, where he purchased eighty acres, which he was obliged to break before beginning the work of cultivation. At the end of five years he sold this property and bought one hundred and eighty-nine acres on Shell Rock river, in Dayton township. He located upon this place and farmed it for twelve years, after which he sold his holdings and bought the farm which he now owns. He has two hundred acres on section 34, Dayton township, and this he has improved with a neat residence, a large barn, a granary, cribs and other convenient out-buildings. He has fenced and cross fenced his fields and has a fine natural grove of native timber, making an effective wind-break around the house and buildings. He raises a good grade of Durham cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and heavy work horses, and is also interested in dairying, all departments of his activities being important and profitable.

In Jackson township, this county, on the 18th of December, 1888, Mr. Wygle married Miss Nellie Leete, a daughter of A. N. Leete and a sister of H. A. Leete, of Greene, of whom further mention appears elsewhere in this work. Mrs. Wygle was born in Wisconsin but was reared in Butler county. She and her

husband became the parents of six children: Abbie, Clarence, Arthur, Fannie, Bernard, and one child who died in infancy. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Packard.

Mr. Wygle gives his political allegiance to the republican party and served for a time as road supervisor and for two terms as township trustee. A resident of Butler county during practically his entire life, he has witnessed a great deal of its growth and development and has done his full share in promoting its advancement. He is numbered today among the influential men of the county and his worth as a man and a citizen is widely acknowledged.

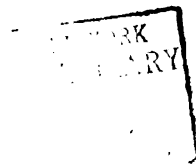
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### WILLIAM TRINDLE.

Almost every state in the union has furnished its quota of citizens to Iowa. The state that has produced the best corn crops of the country has also produced some of the strongest men of the nation, and its residents on the whole are a prosperous, contented and progressive class, who are winning success in carefully directed farm work. Of this number William Trindle is a representative and has a pleasant home on section 32, West Point township. He comes of Scotch ancestry, the family having been founded in America by his grandfather, William Trindle, and his two brothers, Andrew and John, who crossed the Atlantic and settled in Pennsylvania. John, who remained single, secured a position in connection with government surveys and at the time of his death left a large fortune, but the family could not establish a claim to it; for the records of his two brothers had been destroyed. George M. Trindle, son of William Trindle, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, February 26, 1826, and having arrived at years of maturity, there was married on the 17th of July, 1851, in Fairfield township, that county to Miss Sarah McDowell, also a native of that county, born April 17, 1832. They began their domestic life in the east, but in 1863 removed westward to Iowa, establishing their home in Butler county, where they lived for thirty years, Mr. Trindle passing away on the 16th of June, 1893. He had followed farming during much of his life and during the last twenty years was also a minister of the United Brethren church, but made his home upon his farm, having one



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM TRINDLE



hundred and sixty acres of productive land, which responded readily to the care and cultivation which he bestowed upon it. He was a most earnest temperance worker and sought in every way possible to promote the moral progress in the community in which he lived, his influence being an effective force for good among his friends and neighbors. His wife still survives and now makes her home with a daughter near Bowman, North Dakota. In their family were seven children: William; Susan Mary, the wife of Charles Coryell, of Minnesota; Almira Jane, the wife of A. J. Sylvius, of Bowman, North Dakota; James A., living in Marshalltown, Iowa; Emily Eleanor, the deceased wife of Robert Santee; George, who died in infancy; and C. L., living in Jackson township.

William Trindle, whose name introduces this record, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1852, and there spent the first eleven years of his life, accompanying his parents on their removal westward to this county in 1863. One half century has since come and gone and during the entire period he has been an interested witness of the changes which have occurred, converting the wild prairie district into a rich farming region, dotted here and there with beautiful homes, substantial school buildings and churches and other evidences of a progressive civilization. William Trindle was reared as a farm lad, working in the fields when not occupied with the duties of the school room. In manhood he has been content to give his time and attention to the occupation with which he had become familiar as a boy and thus concentrating his efforts upon a single line of activity, he has won prosperity and is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of rich land, constituting the west one half of section 32, West Point township, upon which he has resided for a quarter of a century. The improvements upon the place are the tangible evidences of a well spent life characterized by energy and thrift.

On the 25th of February, 1880, Mr. Trindle was united in marriage to Miss Keziah Cornford, who was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 9, 1847, and is a daughter of John and Mary Ann (Ralph) Cornford, who were natives of England, born near London. Both passed away in Wisconsin, the father when but forty-four years of age and the mother in 1903 at the advanced age of eighty-nine years. They had two children born in England ere they came to America about 1845. Their family numbered nine children, of whom one son died at the age of twenty-five, while two other children have also passed away, leaving six yet living.



Mr. and Mrs. Trindle have three children: Anna, the wife of Jesse Young, residing near Turtle Lake, Wisconsin; Nellie, the wife of S. G. Young of Turtle Lake, Wisconsin; and William Irving, who married Laura Berkley and who remains upon the old homestead and now operates the farm.

The parents are members of the Christian church of Bristow, are liberal in its support and take an active part in its work. Mr. Trindle is serving as one of its elders and does all in his power to further its cause. He holds membership with the Modern Brotherhood of America and he gives his support to the republican party, being now identified with its progressive wing. He has held only school and road offices nor does he desire further political preferment. Living in the county for a half century, he is largely familiar with its history, his memory going back to the time when this part of the state was mostly an unfenced prairie, upon which few houses had been built. It was a dangerous thing to travel in this district in the winter time, for there were no homes in which to seek shelter from the storms and it was not an unusual thing for a blizzard to sweep over the district. The mail was received twice a week being brought in by stage from Cedar Falls and Hampton. Farsighted men, however, recognized the natural advantages of the country and came to claim its rich agricultural lands, while the present generation, profiting by their labors, have become prosperous farmers. The country is now well developed and its attractiveness has been enhanced by the labors of such men as William Trindle, who is justly accounted one of the progressive farmers of his part of the state.

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### J. B. HICKMAN.

J. B. Hickman is numbered among the pioneer settlers of Butler county, having since 1865 made his home within its borders. Great changes have since occurred, the labors of time and man having wrought a marked transformation in the county, which was largely undeveloped and unimproved when he took up his abode within its borders. He can relate many interesting incidents of the early days, for through thirty years he kept a diary, writing in it each day until his eyesight failed him. He is now in his seventy-sixth year, his birth having occurred in Lincolnshire, about ten miles from Boston, England, on the 29th of July, 1838.

His parents were Mathew and Frances (Humble) Hickman, natives of Lincolnshire, who in 1854 came to the United States, bringing with them their seven children. They took passage on the sailing vessel *Empire State* and were seven weeks and two days in crossing the Atlantic. After landing at New York they proceeded by way of the water route to Kenosha, Wisconsin, and a year later the family removed to Green county, that state, where they resided until 1865, when they came to Butler county, Iowa, settling three miles northeast of Clarksville. The father made farming his life work and developed his land in this county into a rich and productive tract, residing there until his death, in April, 1886, when he was in his seventy-seventh year. His widow survived until 1898 and passed away at the age of eighty-seven years. Their children were seven in number: Mary, who died in Clarksville in 1911, was the wife of Robert Skinner and had nine sons and a daughter. Dorothy is the widow of John Carter and lives in Green county, Wisconsin. J. B. is the next in order of birth. Ann is the wife of William Hanks, of Kenosha county, Wisconsin. Frances is the wife of David Martin, of New Mexico. William died in Rockford, Iowa, and Lucy is the widow of Julius Rambo and makes her home in Clarksville.

J. B. Hickman was a youth of sixteen years at the time of the emigration from England to America. He accompanied his parents to Wisconsin and remained with them most of the time until he was twenty years of age, although he spent one winter in the south before the war, working on the levee. In 1863 he went to California, where he remained for a year, and in 1864 he made a trip to England and visited the scenes of his childhood and married, returning to the United States in 1865 to Butler county, Iowa, where he has since resided and has been numbered among its leading and representative agriculturists. His life has here been devoted to general farming and he still owns eighty acres of good land on section 8, Jackson township.

It was in the year of his arrival in this county that he married, the lady of his choice being Miss Elizabeth Humble, whom he wedded in September, 1865. She was born in Lincolnshire, England, December 4, 1845, and was a daughter of John and Lucy (Stir) Humble, who spent their entire lives in England. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hickman has been blessed with seven children: Frances Eveline, who is the widow of Charles D. Ackerman and resides in Dayton township; Lucy Ann, the wife of John Orr, of West Point township; Harold, who died at the age of three

and one-half years; Cora Helen, the wife of Ed Hershey, of West Point township; Daisy May, who died at the age of four months; Wesley Roy, who operates the home farm; and Ralph Mathew, living in Jackson township.

Since attaining his majority J. B. Hickman has been a stalwart republican, feeling that the party principles contain the best elements of good government. For five years he served as township clerk and has held some school and road offices. He has been a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Clarksville since its organization thirty-five years ago and he is a consistent member of the Congregational church of Allison. His life has been well spent and his many sterling traits of character have commended him to the confidence, good-will and high regard of all with whom he has come in contact. He traveled quite extensively in early manhood but for forty-eight years has resided continuously upon the farm which is now his home and is today numbered among the valued early settlers who are familiar with the history of this section and have contributed to its progress and upbuilding.

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### BURT CURTIS.

Burt Curtis is engaged in the cultivation of a farm of four hundred acres on section 32, Jackson township. He leases his land but owns a forty acre tract in Butler township. His farming activities are carried on extensively and his practical methods and sound business judgment are manifest in the success which is attending his labors. New York claims him as a native son, his birth having occurred in Onondaga county, December 14, 1871. He was but four months old when, on the 4th of April, 1872, he was brought by his grandparents, Japhet and Sarah Ann (Taylor) Curtis, to Butler county and they took up their abode near Clarksville, where the grandfather died in 1879. His widow long survived, however, and passed away in 1906.

Burt Curtis was trained to habits of industry, economy and perseverance. His educational opportunities were those afforded by the public schools and in the school of experience he has learned many valuable lessons. He has engaged in farming independently since he was large enough and is now the owner of forty acres of land in Butler township, which was his grandfather's homestead. His farming interests, however, are carried on much more exten-

sively than would be possible on his own property, he leasing four hundred acres on section 32, Jackson township, where he devotes his time to general farming and stock-raising. The work is systematically done and his labors are productive of good results. In addition to his individual interests of that character he is a director of the Butler County Mutual Fire & Lightning Insurance Company, with which he has thus been connected for the past nine years, and is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Allison and in two different telephone lines of the county.

On Christmas day of 1899 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Curtis and Miss Sarah Jane Allan, who was born in 1870, a daughter of James Allan, mentioned elsewhere in this volume. The five children of this marriage are Mary Ellen, James Bruce, Lela Bernice, Bessie Christina and Ruth Viola.

The parents hold membership in Unity Presbyterian church and Mr. Curtis belongs also to the Masonic fraternity and to the Modern Woodmen camp. In politics he is a progressive. He does not believe in the blind following of party leaders but thinks for himself and his opinions are the expression of honest conviction. He stands for all that he believes to be best in citizenship and his cooperation can be counted upon to further any measure or movement for the public good.

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### LAFE BELDEN.

Lafe Belden, superintendent of the County Farm, in which connection he is making a most creditable record, was born upon a farm in Floyd county, near Rudd, Iowa, April 22, 1862, and was brought to Butler county in his infancy by his parents, Gardner and Jane (Durgin) Belden, who settled in Clarksville. Both the father and mother were natives of Pennsylvania but were married in Ohio. Soon afterward they removed to Minnesota, where the father engaged in business as a teamster, freighter and mail carrier in the early days when Minnesota was a frontier state. He was employed in that capacity not only in the northwest but also in the southwest and became familiar with all the middle section of the county. Eventually he took up his abode in Clarksville, where for many years he followed the blacksmith's trade, his death occurring in 1905, when he had reached the venerable age

of eighty-six years. His wife still resides in Clarksville, at the age of eighty-five, and is very active for a woman of her years. Their family numbered three children: Joseph, of Hampton; Lafe; and Emma, the wife of Jasper King, of Allison.

Lafe Belden spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his parents' home in Clarksville and at the age of twenty years went to Colorado, where he was employed a part of the time on the railroad and a part of the time in a smelter at Pueblo. He spent four years in the west, returning in 1886.

It was in December, 1890, that Mr. Belden was united in marriage to Miss Ella Wells, who was born in Waverly, Iowa, and died in Clarksville June 2, 1913, at the age of forty-five years. Following his marriage Mr. Belden entered the hotel business at Steamboat Rock and later conducted a hotel at Allison. Subsequently he conducted a similar business at Greene and then returned to Allison, after which he was appointed to his present position as superintendent of the County Farm on the 1st of March, 1909. He has now creditably filled the office for four years and the record is one which commends him to the confidence and good-will of the public, for he is capable and conscientious in the discharge of his duties.

In politics Mr. Belden is a republican but not an active party worker, taking only a citizen's interest in the questions and issues of the day. Fraternally he is a Mason, belonging to Butler Lodge, No. 94, A. F. & A. M., of Clarksville. Mr. and Mrs. Belden have had no children of their own but have reared an adopted son, Cecil Mellinger, the child of Mrs. Belden's half-brother. He is now nineteen years of age and has lived with them since six months old. Mr. Belden is a free-hearted man, genial in disposition, kindly in spirit and very popular, his many attractive social qualities winning him high regard wherever he is known.

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### AARON KINGERY.

Among the valued and representative citizens of Greene is numbered Aaron Kingery, who since 1910 has lived retired in the city after thirty years of close connection with agricultural interests of Coldwater township. He was born in Bennezzette township, this county, April 19, 1860, and is a son of William Kingery, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work.

Aaron Kingery was reared in Coldwater township, upon the farm which he now owns. He aided in the operation of the homestead until he was twenty years of age and then rented the property from his father, carrying forward the work of its improvement for three years thereafter. At the end of that time he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of raw land on section 29, Coldwater township, breaking the soil and improving this property for nine years thereafter. When he sold this farm he purchased the homestead from his father and immediately began the work of improvement. In 1901 he built a modern two-story residence and he erected also a large barn and convenient outbuildings. He fenced and cross fenced his fields with woven and barbed wire and eventually became the owner of one of the finest farms in Coldwater township. In addition to raising hay and grain he was also a stock-raiser on an extensive scale, keeping good grade Durham cattle, Poland China hogs and heavy work horses. He was a promoter of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company of Greene and is still serving as a member of the board of directors. He is also a stockholder in the Greene Cooperative Creamery Association. In 1910 Mr. Kingery rented his farm and moved into Greene, where he purchased the attractive residence in which he has since lived retired.

On the 7th of June, 1883, in Greene, Mr. Kingery was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Humbert, who was born in Indiana and reared and educated in Carroll county. Mr. and Mrs. Kingery became the parents of eight children. Floyd W. is operating his father's farm. He is married and has one daughter. Daisy became the wife of W. B. Solt, of Morrison county, Minnesota. They have two sons, Lester D. and Lyle Eugene. Pearl May is the wife of Archie Worth, a farmer of Coldwater township. Ruth, Ora and Clara are students in the Greene high school. Lester D. met death by accident when he was two years of age and one child died in infancy. Mrs. Kingery is a member of the Brethren church of Greene.

Mr. Kingery gives his political allegiance to the republican party and served for a time as street commissioner of Greene. While on his farm he was identified with educational work for a number of years, serving as a member of the board of school directors. He has been a resident of Butler county during his entire life and has witnessed a great deal of the growth and development of this section of the state. To the extent of his ability he has aided in improving agricultural conditions and has

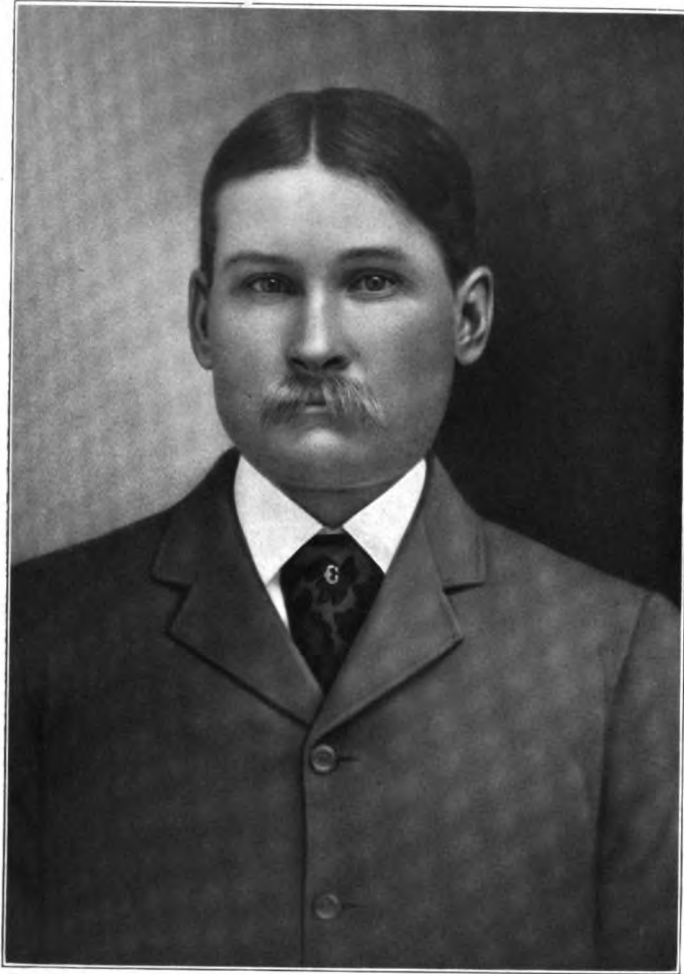
cooperated in all measures and projects of reform and advancement. His present retirement is well deserved, rewarding many years of active and faithful labor.

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### GEORGE HENRY CARTER.

In the death of George Henry Carter, Butler county lost a representative citizen, his associates a faithful friend and his family a devoted husband and father. He was born six miles south-east of Monroe, in Green county, Wisconsin, December 8, 1860, and was the third in order of birth in a family of eleven children born to the marriage of John and Dorothy (Hickman) Carter. His youthful days were spent under the parental roof with the usual experiences of pioneer life. He spent what time he could in the schoolroom, but with the opening of the plowing season began work on the farm. He continued at home until the time of his marriage, save for one year which he spent in the employ of a neighboring farmer. On starting out in life on his own account he purchased forty acres near Monroe, which he cultivated for two years. In March, 1886, he arrived in Butler county, having in the previous September purchased a farm upon which he resided to the time of his death, which occurred September 11, 1901. His original purchase was eighty acres and the farm now consists of one hundred and twenty acres on section 16, Jackson township, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He also engaged in handling sheep and in buying wool.

On the 17th of April, 1884, Mr. Carter was united in marriage to Miss Rosina Hefty, who was born in Green county, Wisconsin, March 26, 1863, a daughter of Abraham and Rosina Hefty, who were natives of Switzerland, the former born November 20, 1833, and the latter February 26, 1837. Abraham Hefty came to the new world when nineteen years of age, establishing his home in Wisconsin. He lost his mother when but three years old and his father when eight years of age and was reared by an uncle. For ten years he was employed in the pineries of Wisconsin and afterward became a successful farmer. He was a well educated man and was a citizen of worth, his death being deeply regretted when he passed away in Monroe, Wisconsin, July 11, 1901. His wife, who accompanied her parents to Wisconsin when ten years of age,



GEORGE H. CARTER



1875

is still living in Monroe. They had a family of eleven children: Fred A., a resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Mrs. Carter; Anna, the wife of R. G. Pfund, of Monroe; Margaret, the wife of A. Jenny, of Monroe; Martha M., who died at the age of seventeen months; Edward, living in Colorado; Martha M., who is the second of that name and became the wife of J. S. Ohl of Monroe; John Henry, living in North Dakota; Jacob, who died in infancy; Minnie, the wife of John Edward Pfund, of Grand Rapids, Wisconsin; and Matilda Pauline, the wife of O. E. Schroeder of Freeport, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Carter have but one child, Frank A., who was born in Wisconsin, February 20, 1885, and was married in that state in February, 1908, to Miss Rosa C. Mayer, of Green county, Wisconsin. He now operates the home farm for his mother and also eighty acres which he owns.

Mr. Carter was a democrat in his political views and kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day, but never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. When death called him on the 11th of September, 1901, he left behind him many friends, for his sterling worth had gained for him the confidence and good-will of all with whom he came in contact.

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### CHARLES V. CAVE.

Charles V. Cave, one of the active and progressive business men of Greene, controlling important commercial interests as senior member of Cave, Sproul & Company, lumber and implement dealers, one of the most important mercantile firms in this section of the state, was born in Clarksville, Iowa, February 18, 1866. His father, William R. Cave, was a native of Maryland, born in Baltimore, June 2, 1831, a son of William Cave, who later moved with his family to Indiana, locating in Paris. There the father of the subject of this review grew to maturity and later, in 1856, he moved to Iowa. From Clarksville, this state, in 1862 he enlisted for service in the Civil war, joining Company G, Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He received his honorable discharge at Keokuk, Iowa, in 1865, but during the war had contracted a disease from which he never fully recovered. He returned home and engaged in carpentering, contracting and building in Clarksville and throughout the adjacent country, carry-

ing on this business until his death, which occurred July 2, 1905. He was a member of the Grand Army post at Clarksville and was well and favorably known in that city. On the 19th of April, 1856, he married Miss Florella Goodhue, and to their union were born five children, of whom Charles V. of this review was the only son.

Charles V. Cave was reared in Clarksville and attended grammar and high schools in that city. He afterward clerked in the mercantile store conducted by Alfred Price, receiving during the two or three years of his connection with this concern an excellent practical business training. In 1888 he came to Greene and established here a branch store for Mr. Price, remaining manager of this enterprise until 1892. In that year he moved to Minnesota and started a lumber business at Ellsworth, but he disposed of his holdings at the end of a year and returned to Greene, purchasing an interest in the firm of which he is now senior partner. They commenced in a small way and extended the field of their business as their enterprise grew, and they now carry a large stock of lumber and building material besides farm implements, vehicles, coal and cement. The company also handles a large contracting and building business, its territory extending beyond Greene into the adjacent country. It employs from ten to fifteen men in the various departments and owns a modern business house, with implement rooms, lumber sheds and coal house and everything necessary for the able conduct of a large and growing business. Mr. Cave is recognized as a capable and discriminating business man and a farsighted financier and a great deal of the remarkable advancement and growth of the concern with which he is connected is due to his energy, ability and enterprise.

In Greene, on the 27th of December, 1894, Mr. Cave was united in marriage to Miss Daisy Williams, who was born in Delaware county and lived there until she was eight years of age. She then moved with her parents to Osage county and later to Greene. She is a daughter of James W. Williams, one of the early settlers of Iowa, who located in this state in 1853. Mr. and Mrs. Cave have become the parents of two children, Dorothy and Lawrence V.

Mr. Cave is well known in Masonic circles, holding membership in the blue lodge at Greene, the chapter at Clarksville and the Waterloo commandery. He has served as secretary of the blue lodge for ten or twelve years. In addition to this he is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias, which he joined in Clarksville, later transferring his membership to the Greene lodge. He has served through all the chairs and is now past chancellor, and

he has besides represented both the Greene and the Clarksville lodges in the Grand Lodge of Iowa. He has been connected with business interests of Greene for many years and during the time has gained the confidence and esteem of the people of the city and an enviable place among public-spirited and progressive citizens.

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### IRVING H. HART.

Irving H. Hart, who has done valuable work as an educator for the past fifteen years, held the position of superintendent of schools in Allison from 1908 to 1912, and in the latter year was elected superintendent of schools in Butler county, in which capacity he is now ably serving. His birth occurred in Grinnell, Poweshiek county, Iowa, on the 3d of September, 1877, his parents being A. C. and Elizabeth (Biggar) Hart. It was in 1866 that A. C. Hart came to Iowa with his father, locating in Chickasaw county. By profession he is a school teacher. For the past three years he has resided in Washington, taking up his abode there in 1910. His wife's family came to Iowa from the Province of Quebec, Canada, in 1856, also locating in Chickasaw county. Mrs. Hart was called to her final rest in 1883.

Irving H. Hart, who lost his mother when a little lad of six years, was reared by his uncle, I. M. Fisher, at Allison, where he attended the public schools in the acquirement of his early education. Subsequently he pursued a course in liberal arts at Grinnell College and received his diploma from that institution in 1898, while in the army. In April, 1898, while still a college student, he enlisted for service in the Spanish-American war as a member of Company K, Fiftieth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was mustered out in December, 1898, having seen no active service. For the past fifteen years, as above stated, he has been identified with educational work, and his labors in this connection have been attended with far-reaching and beneficial results. He has had charge of schools in the states of Missouri, Nebraska, Texas and Iowa. From 1908 to 1912 inclusive he served as superintendent of schools in Allison, Iowa, and is now acting as county superintendent of schools here, having been honored by election to that responsible position in 1912. For a short time—from May until October, 1908—he was also identified with journalistic interests as editor of the Butler County Tribune at Allison.

At Hebron, Nebraska, on the 20th of December, 1902, Mr. Hart was united in marriage to Miss Ida Fay Pew, by whom he has four children—two sons and two daughters. He attends the services of the Congregational church and in politics is a republican. Though still a comparatively young man, Mr. Hart has already attained a prominent position in educational circles, and is a highly respected and esteemed citizen of his community.

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### GEORGE A. MCINTYRE.

George A. McIntyre, an attorney of Shell Rock and the mayor of the town, was born at Paw Paw, Lee county, Illinois, February 27, 1856, a son of Abijah S. and Sarah (Sawyer) McIntyre. The father was born in the vicinity of LaPorte, Indiana, and the mother's birth occurred in Lee county, Illinois, November 24, 1832. They were married in the latter state, October 6, 1853. The father was of Scotch descent, his father having been a native of Scotland. The maternal grandfather, Joseph Sawyer, served as a drummer boy in the War of 1812. He was of English descent and was born in 1793, while his death occurred October 11, 1872. George A. McIntyre well remembers him as a tall, large man. He was a school teacher for many years and spent the greater part of his life in Lee county, Illinois, but at an early day in the development of Iowa, came to this state. His last years, however, were passed in Marshalltown, Iowa. He was the owner of a farm near Albion and when Abijah S. McIntyre brought his family to Iowa they stopped for a while at the farm of Mr. Sawyer. Abijah McIntyre when a young man was a cooper by trade, but afterwards studied medicine and then turned his attention to its practice, entering upon the work of the profession about the time that he married Sarah Sawyer. She was a nurse, and while her husband, who was the only physician in Paw Paw, was performing his professional duties she did all of the nursing in important cases for him. The father died in Albion, Marshall county, Iowa, when his son, George, was six years of age. He had two sons by a former marriage, Horace and William and a daughter Laura. The sons enlisted from Dixon, Illinois, for service in the Civil war and George A. McIntyre remembers them marching away with their company. Horace was killed while serving in the army, but William is now a practicing physician living near Lincoln, Nebraska. He

was at one time a professor in the medical department of the University of Nebraska. The mother died at the home of her son, George A., on the 6th of January, 1909. On the 23d of June, 1866, she became the wife of Gideon G. Aurmeyer and they had one child, Frank G., now in Neligh, Nebraska. George A. McIntyre has an own sister, Alice, who is the wife of Henry Teft of Reno, Nevada.

George A. McIntyre was reared in the family home at Albion, where he attended the public schools and the seminary following its establishment. There he received instruction from Professor Samuel G. Smith and Professor T. B. Taylor, both of whom became prominent educators and the latter became a member of the law firm of Taylor and Evans of Hampton, Iowa. Mr. McIntyre engaged in teaching school for two years and afterward entered the law department of the State University at Iowa City in 1876. He was graduated therefrom in 1877. He was also a member of the first second year class in the law department and graduated therefrom in 1878. He then began practice at Marshalltown, where he remained until 1881, when he removed to Allison, Butler county. There he continued in active practice until 1884, when he came to Shell Rock. He was editor and publisher of the Shell Rock News from that date until 1898, and at the same time he continued in the practice of law. In 1896 he was elected county attorney and served until 1900, filling the position for two consecutive terms. In politics he has always been a republican and active in political work. At four different periods he has served as mayor of Shell Rock, his occupancy of the office covering a more extended period than that of any other incumbent in the position. His elections always came unsolicited and at the present time he is serving by appointment to fill out an unexpired term. Mr. McIntyre has also been attorney for the town since 1884. He has been admitted to practice in the state and federal courts and has been an active representative of the profession since his admission to the bar.

In 1877 occurred the marriage of George A. McIntyre and Miss Hanna Moreland of Marshalltown, Iowa, who died April 4, 1881, leaving a daughter, who was born July 5, 1879, and is now a stenographer at Imperial, California. She was graduated from a business college in Cedar Rapids and also in Chicago. In 1882 Mr. McIntyre was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary Jones, a daughter of Captain J. R. Jones, and Angeline B.

Jones, the former having won his title by service in the Civil war. He was also sheriff of this county for three terms.

Fraternally Mr. McIntyre is a Mason, belonging to the lodge at Shell Rock and the chapter at Clarksville.

He is also connected with the Knights of Pythias and with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, both at Shell Rock. His political support is given to the republican party, and he is ever interested in the welfare of county, state and nation. He is known as the father of the primary in Butler county, being a leader in the movement that secured its adoption. He used his paper to advocate the cause and his efforts resulted in the volunteer use of primaries in this county before the state law was passed requiring it. This was a protest against the wrongful manipulation of the old caucus system. Mr. McIntyre was a candidate for the office of state senator from the district comprising Butler and Bremer counties in a contest with E. W. Soesbe and later with Charles Gates of Greene. Mr. McIntyre took an active part in the formation of the Republican state league and was president of the third congressional district and was chairman of the national committee of league work. He represented the league in indorsing a presidential candidate for nomination in 1896. This was in the interest of Senator Allison and in accordance with the constitution of the league. This work took him to Washington and to New York city. He has always been more or less active in politics and at all times has been actuated by a spirit of devotion to the public good. Progress and patriotism might be termed the keynote of his character.

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### BAINBRIDGE LEAVENS.

Bainbridge Leavens, now in his eightieth year, is living on a farm on section 25, Butler township, not far from Shell Rock. He is the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, and his holdings represent a life of industry and thrift, for all his possessions have been acquired through his own efforts. Mr. Leavens was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, July 1, 1834, a son of Stephen and Juliet (Merrick) Leavens. The father was born in Massachusetts, August 16, 1802, and the mother's birth occurred in New York, August 20, 1809. When their son Bainbridge was two years of age they started for DuPage county, Illinois, but the

father died while en route. The mother continued on her way to Illinois and while living in that state married again. She had three children by her first marriage, and there were two sons and a daughter by the second union. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Leavens were Stephen, who was born March 31, 1830, and is now deceased; Bainbridge; and Francis, born July 24, 1836, who has also passed away.

Bainbridge Leavens remained in DuPage county with his mother until he came to Butler county, in 1857, casting in his lot with the early settlers of this part of the state. He took up his abode upon the farm which is still his home, his stepfather having entered the land in his name. The patent issued in 1854 is signed by President Franklin Pierce, and gives Mr. Leavens title to the southwest quarter of section 25, range 92. It has never passed from his possession and is still occupied by Mr. Leavens, who now has three hundred and sixty acres, constituting a rich and productive farm, while he and his sons have elsewhere in the township five hundred acres. His life has been devoted to general farming and stock-raising, and his business affairs have been capably managed, bringing him a substantial and well merited return for his labors.

On the 22d of October, 1862, Mr. Leavens was married to Miss Adaline E. Wheeler, who was born in Chautauqua county, New York, April 22, 1838, and came with her parents to the middle west. She died in December, 1882, leaving three children: Eugene Le Roy, who operates the home farm for his father, and who was born September 15, 1863, and married Julia H. Wood, by whom he has three children, Adaline, Ethel and Bainbridge; Niles Wheeler, born May 14, 1865, who was accidentally killed by the discharge of a gun in 1888; and Martin Bailey, born April 21, 1875, who married Ethel Corey. They reside in California and have one son, Martin Bailey, junior.

Since casting his first presidential ballot for John C. Fremont in 1856, Bainbridge Leavens has always voted for the candidates of the republican party until 1912, when he cast a ballot for Roosevelt, thus announcing his support of the progressive movement. For nine years he served on the board of county supervisors and his reelection to the office, in which he remained for three terms, indicated his capability, efficiency and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. He is a Mason, belonging to Escallop Lodge, No. 261, A. F. & A. M., at Shell Rock and to Jethro Chapter, R. A. M., at Waverly. Mr. Leavens is truly a self-made



man. He owes his success entirely to his persistent, earnest labors. While he lost his father at an early age, his stepfather was kind and helpful to him, so that he did not recognize the loss of his natural parent. He was trained to habits of industry and economy and thus given an excellent foundation upon which to build success. Wishing to make his fortune on the frontier, he came to Iowa in a covered wagon drawn by oxen, reaching his destination after about a month's travel, the Mississippi river being crossed by a ferry-boat. When they were in the middle of the river the cattle came very near sinking the ferry and something had to be done. A man of much strength, who was a passenger on the boat, then pushed the cattle into the river and they swam across, the boat being thus saved from sinking. During the first year of Mr. Leaven's residence here five young wolves were dug out of a hole by his farm and he tamed one of them so that it became very gentle and played like a dog.

An old Indian trail crossed the farm from northeast to southwest and was from eight inches to a foot wide and where nothing impeded it was as straight as a line. Every phase of pioneer life is familiar to Mr. Leavens. The nearest railroad point was at Dunleath, opposite Dubuque. No roads were cut through at the time of his arrival in Butler county. He has witnessed the advance of land values from one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre to one hundred and seventy-five dollars per acre. His memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present, and he relates many interesting incidents of the early days when Butler county was on the frontier. He has lived to see wonderful changes and has borne his full share in the work of development.

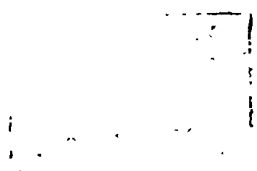
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### DIRK ROTTINK.

Various countries have furnished citizens to Butler county and America has been termed a great melting pot where the nationalities have been fused into an American citizenship wherein are blended the strongest, most stable and most commendable characteristics of the different peoples. At all events, the sons of Holland, now living in Butler county, are recognized as a valuable element here and to this class belongs Dirk Rottink, who was born in Holland, on the 5th of May, 1864, a son of Gerrit and Johan-



DIRK ROTTINK AND FAMILY



nah (Buttega) Rottink, who spent their entire lives in their native land. Dirk Rottink is the seventh in order of birth in a family of nine children. His brothers, John and Herman, came to the United States, John being the first to cross the Atlantic, then Dirk and last Herman. All still reside in Butler county, and sketches of Herman and John Rottink are given elsewhere in this volume.

Reared in his native land, Dirk Rottink was employed in a weaving factory until he came to Iowa, in 1882, when a youth of eighteen years, his brother having sent him a ticket and seventy-five dollars in money with which to come to the United States. He traveled as a steerage passenger across the Atlantic, joined his brother in this county and began work on a farm at fifteen dollars per month. He was employed in that way for four years, after which he rented a farm for seven years. He next purchased eighty acres of land in Beaver township, which he cultivated for ten years and then sold that property, investing in his present farm of two hundred and eighty acres on sections 8 and 9 Ripley township. Here he carries on general farming and stock-raising and has been very successful since starting out in life for himself in the new world. He has recently completed a modern residence of eight rooms and is preparing to take life easy, letting his sons operate the farm. He prefers, however, to live in the country rather than in town as so many do who practically retire from farm life.

In 1886 Mr. Rottink was united in marriage to Miss Johannah Menkens, who was born in Holland, April 20, 1851, and came alone to the new world in 1883. They have four children who are living: Anna May, Henry D., Willie H. and Harry John, and they lost three children in infancy. The living children all yet remain at home and the sons are operating the farm, which will net them about five thousand dollars for the present year, of which sum they give their father one thousand dollars.

Mr. Rottink resided in a city in his native land and worked at the weaver's trade, but on coming to America he decided to devote himself to agricultural pursuits and has always remained upon the farm. He made two trips back to the old country, going first in January, 1908, and again in November of the same year, returning from the second trip in 1909. These trips made him more than ever satisfied with his home in Iowa, for in Holland he saw people who had worked harder than he and yet who had nothing, while he was in possession of a good property and

a substantial income. In politics he has been a republican since the right of franchise was conferred upon him in 1887. He is a member of the Evangelical church in Ripley township, and his life has ever been actuated by high and honorable principles, never permitting him to take advantage of another. He has always depended on industry and determination for his success and has therefore also won an honorable name.

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### CHARLES BORNEMAN.

For a number of years past Charles Borneman has been closely and influentially connected with agricultural and stock-raising interests of Butler county and is today one of the largest landowners in Madison township, his holdings comprising eight hundred acres. He is numbered among the early settlers in Iowa, his residence here dating from 1877, but he was born in Germany in 1853. He remained in his native country until he was fourteen years of age and began his education in the public schools. In 1867 he came to America and joined his older brother, Fred, in Evansville, Indiana, where he worked on a farm during the summers and attended school in the winter months. In 1877 he came to Iowa and for a time worked by the month on a farm in Franklin county. After his marriage, which occurred in 1877, he rented land for several years and finally purchased one hundred and sixty acres on the county line in Butler county, a tract which forms a portion of his present farm. This was all wild land which Mr. Borneman broke, fenced and improved, providing the place with a comfortable dwelling. From time to time he added to his holdings until his farm reached its present extensive proportions, making him one of the largest landowners in his locality. On the east side of his section, facing the road, Mr. Borneman has erected a two-story modern house and has provided the place also with a good barn, a granary and corn cribs, and convenient outbuildings sheltered from the wind by a grove of forest and evergreen trees. In addition to general farming he also engages in stock-raising on an extensive scale and his interests, being carefully managed, have brought him an enviable degree of success.

In Franklin county, September 25, 1877, Mr. Borneman married Miss Sophia Nulty, a native of Germany, who was brought to America at the age of seven and reared in Franklin county.

To this union were born eleven children, three of whom have passed away. Those living are: Minnie, born December 4, 1878; Adolph, born January 27, 1880; Sophia, born August 19, 1887; Fred C., born October 19, 1890; William, born February 10, 1893; John C., born September 15, 1895; Louie, born May 30, 1898, attending school; and Bertha, born May 4, 1908. Adolph, Fred C., William and John C. are all aiding in the operation of the homestead. Charles, whose birth occurred December 6, 1884, died in 1910 at the age of twenty-five. Henry, born November 11, 1882, passed away at the age of one and a daughter, Lena, born June 7, 1904, died February 9, 1905.

Mr. Borneman is independent in his political views, supporting men and measures rather than parties. He served as road master for a number of years and was for eighteen years school director, the cause of education finding in him an earnest and able champion. He has been a delegate to a number of county conventions and has served also on the grand and petit juries. He and his family attend the United Brethren church. His is a splendid example of the value of energy, perseverance and enterprise in attaining success, for he began his independent career upon rented land and by frugal living and intelligent management has worked his way upward to success, standing today among the large land-owners and representative farmers and stock-raisers of his locality.

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#### JAMES ALLAN.

From bonnie Scotland came James Allan, who still has strong love for the land of his birth as well as an ardent attachment for the land of his adoption, which has afforded him advantages that have enabled him to win success and become one of the men of affluence of Jefferson township. He makes his home on section 4, and although he was practically empty-handed when he came to the new world, he is now the possessor of a farm valued at fifty thousand dollars. He was born at Callander, Perthshire, Scotland, May 15, 1839, and is a son of Benjamin and Christina (McLaughlin) Allan, who spent their entire lives in the land of hills and heather. James was the third in order of birth in their family of nine children, of whom but two are now living, his sister being Mrs. Christina McFarland, a widow residing in Cedar Rapids.

James Allan, who is her junior and the only other living member of the family, spent not only his youth and early manhood in Scotland, but remained there to the age of forty-four years, coming to the United States in 1883. His investigations of the opportunities offered in this land, led him to send for his family the following year. He had learned and followed the stone cutter's trade in his native country, and he took up work at his trade after coming to Iowa and only recently ceased to labor along that line. On bringing his family, however, he established his home upon a farm, which he yet owns and occupies. His first purchase comprised eighty acres, but as his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his farm until it now comprises three hundred and twenty acres on section 4, Jefferson township. James Allan now leaves the active work of the fields to others, his son having charge of a part of it. The place is the visible evidence of a well spent life, for he was but eleven years of age when his father, who was a practicing physician, passed away in Scotland at the age of forty-eight. It became necessary soon afterward for James Allan to earn his own livelihood and from that time forward he has been dependent entirely upon his own resources. He bought his first eighty acres for eighteen dollars per acre, but when the deal was completed he still owed eight hundred dollars on the transaction. He gave his wife eighteen dollars, all that he had left, with which to meet the family expenses and then sought work at his trade, while the farm work was conducted by his wife and children. As a stone cutter he earned money necessary to develop the farm and the family passed through hard times. When necessary to go to town on business, he would frequently be all day without a meal, but perseverance and energy conquered all difficulties and the farm property today is worth fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Allan has always regretted that he did not come to the United States earlier, but in the comparatively brief period of his residence here he has made rapid progress and is today numbered among the men of affluence in his community.

In 1864 occurred the marriage of Mr. Allan to Miss Mary Ann Leather, who was born in Cumberland, England, March 23, 1841, and there resided until her marriage, which was celebrated in her native land, Mr. Allan having gone from Scotland to England when twenty years of age. Five children were born unto them: David, who died at the age of two years; John, living in West Point township; Sarah Jane, the wife of Burt Curtis, of Jackson township; William, also living in Jackson township; and Christina, the wife

of Frank Beryls of Minnesota. The parents hold membership in the Presbyterian church, and their lives have been guided by high and honorable principles, which have won for them the warm and endearing regard of all who know them. Mr. Allan has never deviated from a course which he believed to be right between himself and his fellowmen, but has endeavored to do unto others as he would have them do unto him and in his business career has demonstrated the truth of the old adage that honesty is the best policy.

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### WILLARD FREDERICK BROWN.

Willard Frederick Brown owns and operates two large grist-mills at Shell Rock and is thus prominently connected with industrial activity. He is also a representative of agricultural interests as the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres in Shell Rock township. He was born in Delaware county, New York, August 14, 1864, and eight years later was brought to Shell Rock, Iowa, by his widowed mother and his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Wright. Mr. Wright was at that time proprietor of a mill at this place. Mr. Brown's parents were Frederick and Mary (Follett) Brown, natives of Otsego county, New York. The father died when the son was eight years of age. He had been identified with the manufacture of lumber and of doors, sashes and blinds. Following the death of her husband the mother came here to reside with her sister Mrs. Anna J. Wright, who was born in Otsego county, New York. Mr. Wright built the west side mill at Shell Rock. Two years after her arrival Mrs. Brown passed away, thus leaving the subject of this review an orphan boy. He continued to reside with his aunt and uncle until the latter's death on Christmas day of 1891. He began working in the mill in 1885 and has continued in the business since that time, having charge of it since the uncle's death. In 1903 he purchased the east side mill and now operates mills both on the east and west sides. They were originally flour mills but they are now operated as merchant and customs grinding mills in connection with the conduct of a grain and elevator business. He buys and sells all kinds of grain and has done important work as a factor in promoting business activity in this section. His enterprise and energy have made him well known, and he is highly esteemed for his business integrity.



On the 14th of December, 1905, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Lillian E. Carson, a native of Wisconsin, who was, however, reared in Iowa. She is the daughter of J. H. and Celesta Carson. Her father is now deceased, but her mother is a resident of California.

Mr. Brown served on the city council for about fifteen years and exercised his official prerogatives in support of many beneficial and public measures. His political allegiance was formerly given to the republican party, but he is now a staunch advocate of the progressive party. His fraternal relations are with the Elks and the Knights of Pythias and in those organizations he has many friends. He is ever a genial social gentleman, always courteous and always thoroughly reliable, and he ranks with the valued and representative men of Butler county.

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#### HERMAN F. WILD.

Prominent among the energetic, capable and farsighted business men of Allison is Herman F. Wild, the vice president of the State Bank and vice president of the Craig-Ray Abstract Company. Correctly judging of his own capacities and powers and of those things which go to make up life's contacts and experiences, he has so directed his interests and utilized his time that the results have been most gratifying, his efforts contributing to general prosperity as well as to individual success. He was born in Rhenish Bavaria, Germany, November 23, 1864, and is a son of Abram and Caroline (Miller) Wild, who were also natives of that locality and spent their entire lives there as farming people. Herman F. Wild was the youngest of their seven children. He had two brothers and a sister who came to the United States: Abram, who died in Michigan; Rudolph, of California; and Katharine, the wife of Abram Wild, of Cedar Falls, who although of the same name was not a relative.

Herman F. Wild remained under the parental roof until sixteen years of age and then bade adieu to family, friends and the fatherland and came direct to Iowa, settling at Cedar Falls, in Blackhawk county, where he joined his sister, who had been in this country for six or seven years. During the succeeding winter he attended the public schools and thus learned the English language. In the following spring he worked in a brickyard and the

next spring went to Waterloo, where he was employed in a grocery store. He thus continued until January 1, 1886, when with a cousin he came to Allison and here embarked in merchandising, in which they continued for seventeen years under the firm style of Wild & Company. They had a well appointed store and were accorded a liberal patronage to the time when the business was sold, in November, 1902. The following year Herman F. Wild entered the employ of the State Bank of Allison, in which he continued until the fall of 1906, when he was elected county treasurer and entered upon the duties of the office January 1, 1907. That he was most competent and faithful is indicated by the fact that he was twice reelected and served in all for six years, or for three terms, ending on the 1st of January, 1913. In the preceding November he purchased the interest of G. M. Craig in the Craig-Ray Abstract Company, Incorporated, of which he is now the vice president, and for a number of years past he has also been the vice president of the State Bank of Allison. He is a man of keen insight and unflagging energy and in business circles of Allison has made for himself a creditable and enviable position. He likewise has farming interests in Minnesota in connection with his cousin, George W. Wild. He never brooks obstacles and difficulties that can be overcome by persistent, earnest and honorable effort, and his unfaltering determination and capable management have brought him a large measure of success.

Mr. Wild has been married twice. In 1886 he wedded Miss Emma Wild, a distant relative, who died in 1904, leaving two children, Lillian H., who is living with her sister; and Carrie F., the wife of John Wilson, of Cheyenne, Wyoming. In December, 1906, Mr. Wild married Eva F. Speedy, and they have a son, Carroll H.

Mr. Wild gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has been an active worker in its ranks. On various occasions he has been called to public office and at the present writing is serving as a trustee of West Point township. He is also a member of the school board of Allison and does all in his power to advance the interests of public education. He served on the city council for a number of years and in all of these connections has conscientiously furthered the public good. At the present writing he is chairman of the republican county central committee, and his opinions carry weight among party leaders. He was one of the committee of appraisers on the collection of the inheritance tax, appointed by the district judge. Fraternally he is connected with Opal Lodge, No. 417, A. F. & A. M., of Allison and is a member of the First

Congregational church. These associations indicate much of the nature of his interests and the rules which govern his conduct and show him to be a man of high principles.

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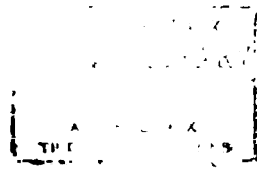
### ROBERT M. SKILLEN.

One of the most attractive and well managed farms in Coldwater township is the Oakland Shade Stock Farm, a fine property of three hundred and fifty acres lying on section 7. Its owner, Robert M. Skillen, has resided upon the property since 1890 and, having followed always the most progressive and practical methods in the management of his farm, has made it a valuable property and has secured for himself a position among the progressive and representative farmers and stock-raisers of this locality.

Mr. Skillen is an early resident of Butler county, having made his home here since 1872. He was born in Genesee county, New York, December 12, 1862. When he was seven years of age he came west with his parents, settling in Buchanan county, Iowa, whence he moved to Butler county. His childhood was passed upon his father's farm in this vicinity and from an early age he assisted in its operation. After reaching maturity he rented land of his own, which he developed and improved for five years, after which, in 1890, he purchased one hundred and twenty acres in Coldwater township, a portion of the property upon which he now makes his home. At intervals he has added to his holdings and the farm now contains three hundred and fifty acres all in a high state of cultivation. Upon it he has erected a modern residence, two substantial barns, two hog houses and a cement silo with a capacity of about two hundred tons, and he has set out an orchard of fine fruits and a grove of forest pines and evergreens, neglecting nothing which will add to the beauty or value of the place. For the past twenty-nine years Mr. Skillen has been a well known breeder of Duroc Jersey hogs and has held two auction sales on his farm in recent years, his animals always commanding high prices. He is interested also in raising pure-blooded registered shorthorn cattle and has now a herd of sixty head. His stock-raising interests are extensive and important, and he is known as one of the most successful breeders and dealers in this part of the state. Mrs. Skillen is well known as a poultry fancier, keeping some fine Barred Plymouth Rock chickens, bronze turkeys, Pekin ducks and



ROBERT M. SKILLEN



Toulouse geese and has made exhibits of these at a number of poultry shows. Mr. Skillen has also entered animals at a number of county fairs and has received a number of premiums on Duroc Jersey hogs. He was one of the promoters of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator of Greene and of the Greene Cooperative Creamery Association and has an enviable reputation in business circles.

In Greene, on the 18th of March, 1888, Mr. Skillen was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Hesalroad, who was born and reared in Coldwater township, a daughter of William Hesalroad, an early settler, who emigrated from Germany to this country. Mr. and Mrs. Skillen are the parents of four children: Laura Belle, the wife of Hugo Holzschuh, of Floyd county; Ida Grace; Clarence Wilbur, who is aiding in the operation of the home farm; and Clyde Robert.

Mr. Skillen is a staunch republican, believing firmly in the principles and policies of the party, but he has never sought public office, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his business affairs, in which he has already been so successful that he is today numbered among the leading representatives of stock-raising interests in Butler county.

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### O. FRED CHASE.

O. Fred Chase, one of the able and progressive business men of Beaver township, prominently connected with important mercantile interests as manager for the Townsend & Merrill Lumber & Coal Company, of New Hartford, was born in Franklin county, New York, October 18, 1873. He is a son of Oscar F. and Georgess (Bennett) Chase, the former a native of Bangor, New York, born in 1837, and the latter born in New York state in 1846. The father has been for many years proprietor of a sawmill and lumberyard and still makes his home in his native state. He and his wife became the parents of nine children, Metta, Robert, Charles, O. Fred, Merton, Miller, Alice, Gordon and Jean.

O. Fred Chase acquired his education in the public schools of Franklin county, attending until he was seventeen years of age. He then worked for a short time in his father's sawmill, after which he bought a half interest in a clothing store, which continued in operation for three years thereafter. On the 1st of February, 1902, he moved to Iowa and worked in the sawmills, on the rail-

road and at the carpenter's trade until 1910, when he was made manager of the Townsend & Merrill Lumber & Coal Company, of New Hartford. This position he has since held and has proved well fitted for its responsible duties, possessing sound business judgment, keen discrimination and excellent administrative ability. Mr. Chase is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in North Dakota.

Mr. Chase attends the Baptist church and is connected fraternally with the Masonic lodge. He is a democrat in his political beliefs and while a resident of New York served for one term as assessor of Franklin county. His attention is now, however, concentrated upon his business affairs, in which he has made steady progress, being numbered today among the leading and representative citizens of New Hartford.

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### RICHARD C. BODE.

Among the prominent and able citizens of Austinville is numbered Richard C. Bode, who in 1913 retired from active life after many years' close connection with mercantile interests as proprietor of a large general store. He was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, November 25, 1871, and is a son of Rev. Cornelius and Hilkea (Ammermann) Bode, natives of Germany, both of whom were born in 1843. The father came to America when he was seven years of age and grew to manhood in Illinois. In 1891 he moved to Iowa and has since been a resident of the state. He and his wife became the parents of seven children: John; Richard C.; Henry; Mamie; William; Anna; and Lillie, who died at the age of thirteen years.

Richard C. Bode acquired his education in the public schools of Michigan and Harrison, South Dakota. When he was twenty years of age he began working as a farm laborer and after one year rented a farm in Wright county, Iowa. He afterward formed a partnership with his brother John, buying two hundred acres of fine land. They rented this property and Mr. Bode of this review came to Austinville in 1892, where he built the first mercantile store in the town, engaging in business in partnership with George Peters. At the end of one year he purchased Mr. Peters' interest and admitted his brother John into partnership. They conducted the enterprise under the name of Bode Brothers until 1905, when

Richard C. Bode bought his brother's interest, continuing in business alone. He secured a large and representative patronage, for he carried a large and well selected stock of goods and constantly adhered to high and honorable business standards. In 1913 he disposed of his interests in the concern and since that time has lived in practical retirement, although he engages to some extent in dealing in real estate. He controls valuable property interests, owning two fine farms in Hancock county and a residence in Austinville. He is a stockholder, director and vice president of the Austinville Savings Bank and half owner of the Austinville Creamery, and his ability is recognized and respected in business circles.

At Clara City, Minnesota, May 25, 1904, Mr. Bode was united in marriage to Miss Lena Voss, a daughter of Thomas and Fannie (Greenfield) Voss, who lived in Minnesota but in 1908 came to Austinville where the father, a retired farmer, died in 1912. The mother is still living there. Mr. and Mrs. Bode are the parents of four children: Hazel, Francis M., Cornelius R. and Thomas L.

Mr. Bode is a member of the Christian Reformed church, in which he is deacon, treasurer and Sunday-school teacher. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and was for four years postmaster of Austinville and for seven years treasurer of the school board of Washington township. He is one of the representative citizens of the community, for his interests have extended to many fields, lying always, however, along lines of progress and advancement.

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### AREND DREYER.

Arend Dreyer, proprietor of an up-to-date drug store in Aplington and a native son of the city, was born December 22, 1886, his parents being Harm and Etta (Arends) Dreyer. The father was born in Germany in 1848 and after settling in Aplington engaged in the general merchandise business, in which he is still active. He and his wife became the parents of eleven children: Hattie, deceased; Albert; Henry; John; Harm; Arend, of this review; Fannie; Jennie; William; Hattie; and Claus.

Arend Dreyer attended public school in Aplington until he was fourteen years of age and then became a clerk in a drug store, holding this position from 1901 until 1907. He then went to Are-



dale, this state, where he spent three years as proprietor of a drug store. At the end of that time he returned to Aplington and purchased the drug store which he still conducts. He has stock valued at forty-five hundred dollars including a fine line of drugs, stationery, paints, oils and wall paper. He has a very attractive establishment, up-to-date in every particular, and he controls an important and growing patronage.

In Aplington, March 13, 1907, Mr. Dreyer married Miss Anna Wiesley, a daughter of Louis and Rosina Wiesley, the former a minister of the gospel, who died in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Dreyer have become the parents of four children, Etta R., Louis, Kenneth and Robert. Mr. Dreyer is a member of the Baptist church and a progressive republican in his political beliefs. He never seeks public office, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his business affairs, in which he is meeting with gratifying and well deserved success.

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#### BENJAMIN F. KINGERY.

Benjamin F. Kingery, a representative of a well known pioneer family of Iowa and one of the progressive and successful native sons of the state, was born in Bennezzette township, May 30, 1858. His father, William Kingery, was born in Pennsylvania in 1826 and resided in that state for a number of years. As a young man he went to Indiana, locating in Carroll county, where he married Miss Mary M. Etter, a native of Ohio. After farming in Carroll county, Indiana, for a number of years Mr. Kingery moved to Iowa, settling in Bennezzette township, Butler county, in 1856, among the earliest pioneers. He purchased a tract of raw land and opened up a farm, which, however, he later sold, buying another property of two hundred acres near Greene. After developing and improving this for a number of years he retired from active life, moving into Greene, where his death occurred in 1898. His wife survives him and makes her home with her son Amos. On the occasion of her eighty-first birthday, on the 29th of June, 1913, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and a few of her oldest friends gathered at the residence of Benjamin F. Kingery and a dinner was served in the grove in celebration of the event.

Benjamin F. Kingery was reared upon the home farm and from his early childhood assisted with the work of its improvement and development. He married when he was twenty years of age and located on an eighty acre tract, the property of his wife. Upon this he built a small house, put out a grove of forest and evergreen trees and an orchard and fenced his fields. He afterward replaced the first dwelling by a modern residence and built other barns and outbuildings, making the place one of the best equipped in the county. From time to time he added to the farm and it now comprises two hundred and eighty acres. He is also the owner of a tract of timber land. He engages in general farming and stock-raising and has met with gratifying and well deserved success. He was one of the promoters of the Greene Cooperative Creamery Company and is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator Company.

Mr. Kingery has been twice married. On May 30, 1878, he wedded Miss Mary J. Hart, who was born and reared in Butler county. They became the parents of three children: Lloyd S., who died in childhood; Andrew Leroy, who passed away October 13, 1907; and William M., who was reared upon the home farm and educated in the public schools. He married, on the 27th of November, 1907, Miss Edna C. Loomer, a daughter of Frank D. Loomer, of Clarksville. Benjamin F. Kingery lost his first wife in April, 1907, and in November, 1908, he was again married, his second union being with Miss Grace Schriever, a native of Holland, who came to Iowa when she was a young woman.

Mr. Kingery gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is now in the twelfth consecutive year of his service as township trustee. He has also been prominently identified with school affairs and is a progressive, public-spirited and loyal citizen, whose record is a credit to a name that has long been an honored one in this community.

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#### CHARLES E. AVERY.

Charles E. Avery carries on general farming on section 35, Butler township, where he has an excellent tract of land of three hundred and twenty-seven and a half acres. The modern improvements upon the place are the work of his hands, and the trees are of his planting. He was born in Boone county, Illinois, October 29,

1855, and is a son of Gilbert L. and Sallie A. (Sponable) Avery. The father was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, February, 1827, and the mother's birth occurred in Ohio in 1834. When eighteen years of age Gilbert L. Avery accompanied his parents to Illinois. In 1859 when our subject was four years old the family removed to McHenry county, Illinois, where the mother died when her son Charles was thirteen years old. The father afterward lived for many years in that county and now makes his home with a daughter in Los Angeles, California. He still owns about five hundred acres in two farms in McHenry county and is very active for a man of his age. He began going to California merely for the winter months, but now makes his permanent home there. In politics he is a republican, and for two terms he served as county supervisor. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Baptist church. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Avery were five children: Elizabeth M., the wife of V. D. Glass, of Los Angeles, California; Charles E.; Sarah, who became the wife of William Miller and died leaving one child; Marion E., the wife of Frank Carpenter, of Omaha, Nebraska; and George F., of Santa Ana, California.

Charles E. Avery remained in Illinois with his father until the fall of 1880, when he came to Butler county and has since resided upon the farm which has now for a third of a century been his home. It comprises three hundred and twenty-seven and a half acres of rich land on section 35, Butler township—land that responds readily to the care and cultivation of the owner, who follows modern and progressive methods in the development of his place. He uses the latest improved machinery and annually gathers good crops. The farm is pleasantly and conveniently located two and one-half miles north of Shell Rock, and all of its equipments have been secured by Mr. Avery, its trees set out and its buildings erected by him.

In 1880 occurred the marriage of Mr. Avery to Miss Carrie May Poyer, who was born in McHenry county, Illinois, December 28, 1858, and there resided until her marriage. She is a daughter of D. W. and Lydia Poyer, the former now deceased, while the latter resides in Belvidere, Illinois, with her youngest daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Avery have a family of eight children: Guy L., who was born August 2, 1881; George, who was born April 9, 1884, and is living in Marengo, Illinois; Marian, who was born October 28, 1885, and is the wife of the Rev. W. H. Hoge, of Rochester, New York, who was a student in the Baptist Theological seminary;

Dee, who was born February 5, 1888, and is at home; Clark, who was born July 17, 1891, and is a resident farmer of Butler township; Ernest, born March 19, 1893; Earl, born January 8, 1896; and Glenn, born July 2, 1900. The Avery family is well known in this county, where Mr. and Mrs. Avery have made their home since 1880, and their many substantial traits of character have gained them the warm regard and friendship of many with whom they have been brought in contact.

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### JAMES H. CARPENTER.

Since 1905 James H. Carpenter has owned and operated a fine farm of eighty acres on section 7, Beaver township, and on this property engages in general farming, dairying and stock-raising with gratifying success. He has been a resident of Butler county since 1880 but was born in New York state, July 8, 1850. His parents, Henry and Maria (Cookingham) Carpenter, were also natives of the Empire state, the former born in 1812 and the latter in 1827. The father came to Iowa in 1879 and engaged in farming in this state until his death, which occurred in 1884. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1910. Nine children were born to their union, Melissa, Sarah J., James H., Antoinette, Augusta, Margaret, George, Ada B. and Arabella.

James H. Carpenter was educated in the public schools of New York state, attending until he was thirteen years of age. In 1875 he moved to Bremer county, Iowa, and there engaged in farming for five years. At the end of that time he moved to Butler county and in 1884 took up his residence in Parkersburg, where for thirteen years he engaged in contracting and building, meeting with gratifying and well deserved success. He continued active at this occupation until 1905, in which year he moved to Beaver township, buying eighty acres of land on section 7. Here he raises hay and oats which he feeds to his stock, keeping on an average thirty head of cattle, thirty hogs and five horses. He also operates a dairy, and his wife has three or four hundred chickens, which she sells in the local market.

In Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, February 3, 1870, Mr. Carpenter married Miss Emma F. Carpenter, a daughter of Daniel and Eliza (Mason) Carpenter, the former a well known farmer of that locality who died in 1907, at the age of seventy-five. His wife

has also passed away, dying in 1901, when she was sixty-nine years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter became the parents of six children. Daniel H., who was born in 1875, is a carpenter and farmer in Beaver township. He married Miss Alma Ganoung. The next child, who was born in 1877, died in infancy. Lucelie M., born in 1878, married Stewart Bennett, a carpenter of Parkersburg, and they have one son, Harold E. James H., born in 1880, is now deceased. Arvilla was born in 1882. Minnie E., who was born in 1889, married Dennie L. McDowell, a farmer in Jefferson township.

Mr. Carpenter is a republican in his political beliefs. He was school director for district No. 9 for several years and accomplished a great deal of effective work in the cause of education. His attention is, however, largely given to the conduct of his farm which, under his able management, has become one of the valuable properties in this vicinity.

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### JUDGE J. R. FLETCHER.

Nature endowed Judge J. R. Fletcher with strong mentality and his developing powers made him a leader of public thought and action in Butler county for many years. He reached the ripe old age of seventy-eight years and through the entire span of his life commanded the respect, confidence, good-will and honor of his fellow townsmen. He was born in Bedford Springs, Bedford county, Pennsylvania, in 1835 and died in Clarksville, Iowa, July 19, 1913, when in his seventy-eighth year. He was the second of the eight children born to William and Elizabeth S. (Ripsey) Fletcher, the former a native of Bedford county and the latter of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. They spent their entire lives in the Keystone state, and the father followed merchandising.

Liberal educational opportunities were accorded Judge Fletcher so that he had ample opportunity to develop the talents with which nature endowed him. Following his graduation from a private school he attended college in Pittsburgh and later entered upon the study of law under the direction of his uncle, John Blodgett, being admitted to the bar when yet in his 'teens. Thinking the West would constitute a better professional field for a young man, he made his way to Iowa and engaged in practice in Rock Island, Illinois, and in Davenport and Le Claire, Iowa. He



JUDGE J. R. FLETCHER

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION  
125 WEST 47TH STREET  
NEW YORK 10018

also became a land agent and bought land in Butler county on his own account, making investments until he owned one thousand acres three miles west of Clarksville. At that time Clarksville was the county seat of Butler county, and taking up his abode in the town, he engaged in the practice of law for several years but did not find the profession altogether congenial and decided to develop his farm. He built a fine residence thereon and resided there for a short time, engaged in raising high-grade stock, but eventually he gave up the stock business and rented his farm. Much of his life, however, was given to the management of agricultural interests, and he derived therefrom a substantial annual return.

Mr. Fletcher also figured prominently in public life. He was one of the first county judges of Butler county and was defeated for congress in the republican convention by only one vote. He secured a position in the Department of the Interior at Washington, where he remained for about three years and then returned to Butler county, erecting a commodious and attractive residence in Clarksville, from which point he superintended his farming interests, making his law practice a side issue from that time forward.

In 1867 Judge Fletcher was married to Miss Fannie Waterman, who was born in Allegany county, New York, and in early childhood went to Moline, Illinois, with her parents, by way of New Orleans and the Mississippi river. She was graduated from the public schools of Moline and from the Illinois State Normal school. She began teaching when but twelve years of age, having classes in the Moline schools, and when but fourteen she was given a country school. She continued actively in the work of teaching to the time of her marriage and was one of the teachers in Le Claire, Iowa, when she formed the acquaintance of Judge Fletcher. They had no children of their own, but they reared several little girls, all of whom on reaching womanhood became school teachers. The Fletcher home is ever noted for its hospitality and good cheer and is a favorite resort for many friends.

Judge Fletcher was a lifelong republican, save that in 1896 he supported Bryan. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity and in his life embodied its teachings concerning mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. One of the local papers said of him, "He was a great student and a constant reader, a deep and conscientious thinker and a fluent talker. His ready command of the English language remained his best asset and it was a pleasure to converse with him. His friends respected him for his amiable disposition,



his gentle refinement of manner and his intense love of nature. In the affairs of the community in which he resided he was always ready to do what he could that right might triumph."

He leaves behind him an untarnished name and the memory of his life is cherished by all who knew him. His sterling qualities made him honored and respected wherever known and most of all where he was best known.

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### FRED H. TOLL.

The attractiveness of this county as a place of residence is indicated in the fact that so many of her native sons have remained within her borders after attaining man's estate, feeling that nowhere else could better opportunities be secured or better advantages enjoyed. Among her farming people who have always lived in the county is Fred H. Toll, who was born in Jefferson township, December 25, 1870, a son of Frederick and Jane (Borchers) Toll, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former having been born near Berlin, May 13, 1839, while the latter was born in Hanover on the 3d of September, 1844. She was but nine years of age when brought by her parents to America, the family home being established in Illinois, while Frederick Toll came just before he had reached the age when he would be called upon for military service in Germany. He was a youth of about nineteen when he arrived in Illinois, and it was on the 4th of July, 1867, in Waverly, Iowa, that he married Jane Borchers. They began their domestic life upon a farm in Jefferson township, Butler county, and there lived for many years. About 1902 Mr. Toll retired from active business cares and removed to Shell Rock. He had been very successful in his business life, for he started out empty-handed and at the time of his retirement was the owner of six hundred acres, while at the present writing, in 1913, his landed possessions aggregate six hundred and sixty acres. He is one of the extensive and prosperous landowners of the county, and his life record should serve as a source of encouragement and inspiration to others, showing what may be accomplished when honesty, industry and ability lead the way. To him and his wife were born eight children: Florence, the deceased wife of Ed C. Trager; Fred H.; Charles A., William and George O., all of whom reside in Jefferson township; Irving P., whose home is in Albion township; Carrie,

the wife of Ray Betts, of Shell Rock; and Clarence, who resides upon the old homestead in Jefferson township.

Fred H. Toll spent his youth as do most farm boys, dividing his time between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He was early trained to habits of industry and he has always carried on general agricultural pursuits in Jefferson township, being now the owner of two hundred and fifty acres of land on section 5, together with a five-acre tract of timber land in Ripley township. For eighteen years he has lived upon this place and carries on general agricultural pursuits and the raising of high-grade stock of all kinds. In fact, his livestock is the principal feature of his place, and its sale brings to him gratifying annual returns. His farm is well improved as the result of the enterprising efforts and progressive ideas of the owner, who keeps abreast of the times in every particular so that his farm has become one of the attractive places in Jefferson township, giving evidence of a spirit of modern enterprise and successful achievement. His activities, too, have reached beyond his farming interests, for he is now a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Allison and a stockholder in the Star Telephone Company of Shell Rock, and the Mapleleaf of Allison.

A pleasant home life had its beginning in his marriage to Miss Mynelia Fellows, who was born in Jefferson township, August 24, 1870, and is a daughter of Arthur G. and Catharine (North) Fellows. The father was born in New York, July 17, 1847, and the mother's birth occurred in Pennsylvania, October 27, 1843. They arrived in Butler county in 1868, and Mr. Fellows continued to make his home here until his demise. It was on the 16th of December, 1869, that he married Catharine North, after which he purchased what is now the Toll farm, becoming the owner of eighty acres in October, 1870. Upon this place he resided until his death, which occurred May 22, 1884. His widow survived him for about nine years, passing away March 1, 1893. They were the parents of two children, Mrs. Toll and Clara, the latter the wife of Charles Toll, a brother of our subject and also a resident of Jefferson township. As the years passed Mr. Fellows prospered in his chosen life work and, adding to his holdings, was the owner of one hundred and seventy acres of rich farm land when he died. There were no buildings upon this place when he made his first purchase, but he energetically began the work of improvement and that work has been still further carried on by Mr. Toll since he came into

possession of the property. Mrs. Fellows left Pennsylvania when a little maiden of six summers and was a resident of Ohio until she came to Iowa. She started for this state with her first husband, who died, however, while on the way. She then returned to Ohio, but five years later, or in 1867, came to Iowa. Here she married Mr. Fellows and in 1870, they became the owners of the farm upon which Mrs. Toll has lived from her infancy, save for one year after her marriage, when they resided upon a rented farm in the neighborhood. Mr. Toll purchased from his sister-in-law her interest in the property and has added eighty acres to the original tract, so that he is now the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and fifty acres, constituting one of the fine properties in Jefferson township. In the midst of the place stands a comfortable residence, in the rear of which are good barns and substantial out-buildings and these in turn are surrounded by well kept fields annually producing rich harvests as a reward for the care and labor bestowed upon them.

As the years have gone by Mr. and Mrs. Toll have become the parents of seven children: Elsie C.; Vera, who died at the age of six years; Arthur, who has also passed away; Vern; Hazel; Kenneth and Marjorie. Mr. Toll is a member of the German Lutheran and Mrs. Toll of the Congregational church, and Mr. Toll is a republican in politics. He has served for some years as township trustee and has made a creditable record in office. In fact, he is a public-spirited citizen and one whose loyalty to the interests and welfare of the community is widely acknowledged.

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### JACOBUS VALENTINE.

Jacobus Valentine, proprietor of a large variety store in Applington, was born in Germany, October 24, 1870. He is a son of Ausbrand and Bouke (Adams) Valentine, also natives of the fatherland, the former born in 1815 and the latter in 1839. The parents came to America in 1884 and settled in Iowa, where the father engaged as a farmer until his death in 1889. His wife survives him and makes her home in Applington. Ten children were born to their union: Katie; Joe and Lambert, who have passed away; Anna; Suanetta; Jacobus, of this review; Elizabeth; Gertte; Joe and Lambert, the second of the name.

Jacobus Valentine attended school in Germany until he was twelve years of age and then came to America with his parents, pursuing his studies in the public schools of Iowa. He afterward worked upon his father's farm until 1889, in which year he moved to Aplington, opening a jewelry store. He afterward conducted a photographic studio and eventually disposed of this in order to establish himself in his present business. He has now a stock valued at thirty-five hundred dollars and controls an important patronage, which has been accorded to him in recognition of his honorable business methods and his reasonable prices.

At Aplington, March 4, 1899, Mr. Valentine married Miss Matie Jurgena, a daughter of Albert and Flora (Putter) Jurgena, the former a well known farmer of this locality. Mr. and Mrs. Valentine have two children: August A. and Flora M. Mr. Valentine is a member of the German Reformed church and a democrat in his political views. He has valuable property interests in Aplington, owing besides his store building a comfortable residence, in which he and his family reside. He is one of the most highly respected business men of the city and holds the esteem and good-will of all with whom he is associated.

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#### RICH A. VOOGD.

Rich A. Voogd, manager for Voogd & Company, general merchants of Aplington and also well known in business circles as a successful real-estate dealer, was born in Grundy county, Iowa, February 19, 1874, a son of Abe and Bena (Rykena) Voogd, natives of Germany. The father came to America in the early '60s and after residing in Illinois for six years moved to Grundy county, Iowa, where he engaged in farming until his death in 1882. His wife survives him and makes her home in Aplington. Four children were born to their union. Oltman is editor of the Aplington News. He married Miss Clara Paul and they have four children, Abe, William, Margaret and Paul. Rich A., is the subject of this review. Dick married Miss Lila Austin, a daughter of one of the pioneer settlers of Butler county. Abe is engaged in the general merchandising business. He married Miss Thina Hooker.

Rich A. Voogd acquired a public-school education, attending until he was fifteen years of age. He has been in the general mer-

chandise business since that time and has risen to be general manager of the enterprise operated by Voogd & Company in Aplington. In addition to this he is manager of Voogd & Company's elevator and also deals extensively in real estate, being a recognized authority on land values. All of his interests are carefully and conservatively conducted and his success has placed him in an enviable position in business circles.

Mr. Voogd married in Aplington on the 3d of March, 1894, Miss Bena Weiss, a daughter of Fred Weiss, formerly in the grain business here. The father died in 1904. Mr. and Mrs. Voogd have three children: Fred R., Beulah and Edward. Mr. Voogd attends the Presbyterian church and is a democrat in his political beliefs. He is widely and favorably known in Aplington as a careful and reliable man of business and as a progressive and public-spirited citizen.

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#### H. N. REINTS.

H. N. Reints, a representative and successful business man of Kesley, for the past twelve years connected with banking interests here, was born in Aplington, this county, June 27, 1879. He acquired his primary education in the public schools of that city and afterward took a commercial course at Des Moines Business College. After leaving school he went to work in his father's store, where he clerked for a year and a half, after which he undertook the management of the lumberyard at Aplington, which had been purchased by Reints & DeBuhr and which they conducted successfully. In June 1900, the firm of Reints & DeBuhr decided to establish a branch lumber and banking business at Kesley, Iowa, Mr. Reints being now cashier and manager of the institution which they founded. In 1911 they built a large brick business block, which they have equipped as a modern bank, and here they carry on a general banking business, dealing also in real-estate and insurance. They control a large and representative patronage, for Mr. Reints has the confidence and esteem of the people of the city and is held in high respect in business circles.

On the 27th of June, 1912, Mr. Reints was united in marriage to Miss Minette Rabe, who was born and reared in Chickasaw county, acquiring her education there and at Fayette and Nora Springs. Mr. Reints has just completed the erection of a modern residence in Kesley, and he and his wife are well known in social

circles. He was one of the promoters of the Tri-County State Bank, organized in North Dakota in 1908, and he held the position of president of that institution for five years, until he disposed of his interest. He is a man of energy, resource and capacity, and these qualities will undoubtedly carry him still farther forward on the road to success.

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### CHARLES A. TOLL.

Charles A. Toll needs no introduction to the readers of this volume for he is a representative of one of the pioneer families of the county. His birth occurred in Jefferson township, about a mile south of the farm on which he now lives, October 19, 1872, and he is the third in a family of eight children born of the marriage of Frederick and Jane Toll, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. His youthful days were spent under the parental roof and in retrospect one can see him as he trudges off to school, a farm boy, to master the branches of learning taught in the district. He was continually learning, too, as he tramped through the fields—learning lessons taught in the school of experience—and he is today a well informed man. He has always been content to follow the occupation to which he was reared—that of farming—which George Washington said: "Is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man."

Mr. Toll remained with his parents up to the time of his marriage and then purchased his present property, known as the William Marlow farm, becoming the owner at that time of two hundred and forty acres. He has since added an eighty acre tract, so that he now has three hundred and twenty acres lying on sections 4 and 9, Jefferson township, together with a six acre tract of timber land on section 28, and twenty-seven acres adjoining the fair grounds in Allison. He has made many substantial improvements upon his home place, which is one of the best equipped farms in the district. In 1912 he built a large barn forty-four by sixty-six feet with twenty foot posts and a hip roof. It has concrete flooring and is a model stock barn fully equipped with everything to promote the care of the stock. All of the other out-buildings upon the place are good and are kept in a state of excellent repair. Most of these were erected by Mr. Toll, who carries on his farming along scientific lines, while at the same time he

is familiar with all of the practical phases of the business. He raises high-grade stock of all kinds and engages in breeding horses, keeping a fine stallion. He also feeds about two carloads of cattle each year and from two to three carloads of hogs annually. In addition he is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Allison, in the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company of Allison, in the Allison Opera House and in two local telephone lines. His investments have been judiciously made and have brought to him a very gratifying financial return. In addition to his other interests Mr. Toll is a stockholder in the County Fair Association and acted as superintendent of the horse department in 1913. In 1910 he set out upon his place an acre of catalpa trees which is today called the best grove in the state.

On the 29th of April, 1897, Mr. Toll was married to Miss Clara M. Fellows, who was born in Jefferson township February 6, 1873, and is a daughter of Arthur and Catharine (North) Fellows. Our subject and his wife now have two children, Lois and Esther. Mr. Toll votes with the republican party and keeps well informed on the vital questions of the day. He has served as a township trustee but prefers to concentrate his efforts upon his business affairs. He belongs to the Lutheran church and his wife to the Congregational church, and they are both people of sterling worth, enjoying in full measure the regard and esteem of all with whom they have come in contact. Within recent years Mr. Toll has become well known in business and financial circles, and at all times his record has been characterized by constructive measures. He has never been known to take advantage of the necessities of another in business transactions, his enterprise and energy being the foundation of his well known prosperity.

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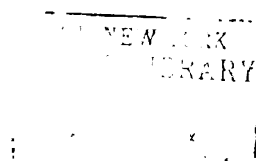
#### P. J. DOWNING.

P. J. Downing is numbered among the early settlers of Butler county, his residence here dating from 1867. He has witnessed a great deal of the growth and development of the locality and since reaching maturity has borne an active and honorable part in the work of advancement, winning success which places him among the prominent and substantial farmers of Coldwater township.



MR. AND MRS. P. J. DOWNING





He was born in the northern peninsula of Michigan, January 22, 1861 and is a son of John E. and Catherine (Moroney) Downing, natives of Ireland. The father remained in that country until he was twelve years of age and then emigrated to America, settling in Massachusetts, where he worked in a factory until 1857. In that year he came west to Michigan and engaged in copper mining in the northern peninsula. He was married in that state in 1859. In 1861 he came to Iowa, settling in Buchanan county, where he engaged in farming for six years, and in 1867 removed to Butler county, where he took up a homestead of eighty acres on sections 25 and 26, Bennezzette township. This he broke and improved, adding to his holdings from time to time until he finally owned three hundred and twenty acres. This property he afterward rented and removed into Greene, where he engaged in the livery business for some time. He died in this city about 1908, having survived his wife about three years.

P. J. Downing was the second in order of birth in a family of twelve children, of whom ten are still living—six boys and four girls. He was reared upon his father's farm in Bennezzette township and remained at home until he grew to manhood, aiding in the operation of the homestead. When he began his independent career he purchased eighty acres of raw land in Bennezzette township, broke the soil, fenced his fields and carried on the work of cultivation for a number of years. About 1897 he purchased an eighty acre tract in Coldwater township and to this he has made additions from time to time, owning six hundred and forty acres of valuable land; four hundred in the home farm, one hundred and sixty in another tract and eighty acres in Bennezzette township. Upon his property he has erected a modern two story residence, a large barn, a machine house and a hog house, and he has set out a good orchard and a fine grove of pines, which forms an excellent wind break north and west of his house. In addition to general farming he is extensively interested in stock-raising and has valuable herds of high-grade cattle and a number of horses and hogs. He was one of the promoters of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company and the Farmers Cooperative Creamery of Greene and is well known and highly regarded in business circles.

In Rockwell, Iowa, November 8, 1888, Mr. Downing married Miss Lucy McGarry, who was born in Fayette county and educated in the public schools of that locality. Her father, James McGarry, was a pioneer of Fayette county and well known in the

contracting and building business there. Mr. and Mrs. Downing became the parents of five children: John Henry, who is aiding in the operation of the homestead; James E., who died in 1900, when he was eight years of age; Mary; Leo B.; and Joseph.

Mr. Downing gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and he served as trustee of Bennezette township for three years and was for several years secretary of the school board of that township. His wife and daughter are members of the Royal Neighbors and he is identified with the Catholic Order of Foresters. The family are members of the Roman Catholic church. The Downing home is one in which courtesy and hospitality abound and in which the stranger is always made to feel welcome and at home. Mr. Downing is the owner of a fine automobile with which he is very generous, taking his friends on long rides through the country. He is popular in Butler county on account of his many acts of kindness, his geniality and his many sterling qualities of mind and character.

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#### JOHN A. ROLFS, M. D.

Dr. John A. Rolfs, who since 1905 has been engaged in the general practice of medicine in Aplington, was born in Scott county, this state, December 26, 1873. He is a son of Maas P. and Mary (Niemeier) Rolfs, natives of Germany, the former born in the Dittmarsch in 1830 and the latter in 1848. The father was a teamster and farmer and died in 1890, his wife surviving him until 1907. To their union were born six children: Claus C., a retired employe of the Weirhauser Dinkman Lumber Company of Davenport, in whose service he did creditable work for twenty-five years; Professor P. H., the dean of the Latin department of the University of Florida; John A., of this review; Mary C., a graduate of the Iowa Agricultural college with the degree of Bachelor of Science; William F., a physician and surgeon at Mullan, Idaho; and Fritz M., chief of the agricultural experimental station in South Carolina.

Dr. John A. Rolfs acquired his early education in the public schools of Scott county and afterward attended the Le Claire high school and the Iowa State Agricultural College, from which he was graduated November 9, 1892. He then enrolled in the Cook County Normal School and after the completion of his course engaged in

teaching at Le Claire. He was principal of the Le Claire schools for two years and was afterward instructor in mathematics in Duncan's Business College at Davenport. Having determined to study medicine, he entered Drake University at Des Moines and was graduated from that institution in 1904 with the degree of M. D. He began the practice of his profession in Eldridge but after nine months removed to Aplington, where he has since resided. He engages in the general practice of medicine and has secured a large and representative patronage, for he is conscientious and thorough in his treatment of his cases and his skill and ability are widely recognized. Dr. Rolfs is registered as a biologist in Germany and France and has paid particular attention to the study of this science. For the past eight years he has been health officer of Monroe and Washington townships and has proved unusually competent in the discharge of his responsible duties. He owns an attractive residence in Aplington and is widely and favorably known both in social and professional circles.

On the 3d of September, 1902, at Davenport, Dr. Rolfs was united in marriage to Miss Mathilda Peters, a daughter of John Peters, a retired farmer living in that city. Dr. and Mrs. Rolfs have two children, Fred A. and Floyd O. Dr. Rolfs is connected fraternally with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America and is a republican in his political beliefs, serving at the present time as chairman of the republican central committee. In his profession he adheres always to the highest ethical standards, and he is ranked with the leading representatives of the medical fraternity in this section of the state.

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### RICHARD H. WAUGH.

Richard H. Waugh is filling the office of county supervisor and rendering creditable service to his fellow citizens in that connection. He makes his home on section 30, Butler township, where he has a well developed farm, having brought his fields to a high state of cultivation in accordance with the progressive methods of the present day.

Richard H. Waugh was born in Henry county, Missouri, September 11, 1870, his parents being John W. and Julia A. (Hamilton) Waugh, who were natives of Montgomery county, Indiana. The father died in Henry county, Missouri, in 1910, at the age of

seventy years, and the mother passed away at the age of thirty-six, when her son Richard was a lad of thirteen years. Both the father and mother were reared in the Hoosier state but removed to Missouri at the close of the Civil war and their remaining days were spent there upon a farm. The father engaged in raising and feeding stock and was very successful in his undertakings. As he prospered he added to his holdings until he was the owner of fourteen hundred acres. In ante-bellum days he was a stanch advocate of abolition principles, and when the republican party was formed to prevent the further extension of slavery he joined its ranks and continued one of its stalwart supporters. His religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church and earnest Christian belief guided him in all of the relations of life. To him and his wife were born nine children: W. B., who for many years was connected with mining interests at Joplin, Missouri, but is now residing in California; Mattie, the wife of Ed Darr, of Blairstown, Missouri; James H., a wealthy farmer of Henry county, Missouri; Ed R., who has large farming interests in the same county; Richard H.; Mary, the wife of Dr. L. L. Smith, of Urich, Missouri; Mrs. Jennie Crist, deceased; Walter S., who resides upon the old homestead in Missouri; and Minnie, the wife of James Adair, of Chilhowee, Missouri.

Richard H. Waugh was reared in his native county, acquiring a common-school education and working upon the home farm until twenty-three years of age. On the 2d of October, 1893, he arrived in Butler county, having driven from the old home in a covered wagon in fourteen days. He was married here on the 8th of October of that year to Adelaide Witt, who was born in Clarksville, March 28, 1875, and when four years of age went to North Dakota, with her parents, R. E. and Sarah C. (Burton) Witt. The father was born in Dublin, Indiana, December 15, 1840, and her mother's birth occurred at Rockville, that state, in 1842. Mr. Witt removed to Iowa in 1854, settling in Butler county, and on the 1st of January, 1860, was married here to Sarah C. Burton. After they had lived for four years in North Dakota they went to Missouri, where they remained for two years and then returned to Butler county, Iowa, where Mr. and Mrs. Witt spent their last days, his death occurring May 27, 1909, while his wife survived until July 1, 1911. He followed farming during the greater part of his life yet was a machinist and followed the trade to some extent. He was living retired in Clarksville at the time of his demise. His family numbered three children: Frank L., of Shell

Rock; Mamie, the deceased wife of Ed R. Waugh, of Henry county, Missouri; and Mrs. Richard H. Waugh. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Waugh have been born three children: Mark, nineteen years of age; Elizabeth, thirteen; and Harvey, ten.

Mr. Waugh has resided in or near Clarksville since coming to Iowa and has always engaged in farming. He now owns one hundred and thirty acres of land on section 30, Butler township, a mile and a half south of the town. He carries on general farming and stock-raising, and his place is well improved with all the modern equipments and accessories of the model farm of the twentieth century. In politics he has been a lifelong republican and for many years served as a trustee of Butler township, while at the present writing he is acceptably filling the office of county supervisor. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Eastern Star. They attend and support the Christian church of Clarksville, and they are widely and favorably known socially, the hospitality of the best homes of their section of the county being cordially extended.

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### DICK VOOGD.

Dick Voogd, mayor of Aplington since 1903, postmaster since 1910 and connected with important professional interests through his control of a large and growing law practice, was born in Grundy county, this state, June 3, 1877. He is a son of Abe and Bena (Rykena) Voogd, natives of Germany, the latter born in 1849. The father came to Illinois in the early '60s and after about six years moved to Grundy county, where he followed farming until his death in 1882. His wife survives him and makes her home in Aplington. Four children were born to their union. Oltman, editor of the Aplington News, married Miss Clara Paul and they have four children, Abe, William, Margaret and Paul. Rich. A., manager of Voogd & Company's general store in Aplington, married Miss Bena Weiss and they have three children, Fred, Edward and Beulah. Abe, a general merchant in Aplington, married Miss Thina Hooker. Dick is the youngest member of the family.

Dick Voogd acquired his education in the public schools of Aplington, attending until he was fifteen years of age. He was afterward for three years clerk in a drug store, after which he

went to Highland Park College in Des Moines, where he studied pharmacy. He was graduated as a registered pharmacist in 1895 and for three years thereafter continued his connection with the drug business. At the end of that time he joined his brother Oltman in the conduct of the Aplington News but three years later entered Iowa State University, graduating from the law department in 1903. In the same year he was admitted to practice before the state and federal courts and opened his present office in Aplington. He has had a very successful professional career and controls a large and representative patronage, connecting him with a great deal of important litigation.

In Cedar Falls, on the 25th of December, 1912, Mr. Voogd was united in marriage to Miss Lila Austin, a daughter of William Austin, a pioneer settler of Butler county. Mr. Voogd belongs to the Masonic lodge, attends the Presbyterian church and gives his political allegiance to the republican party. His interests have extended to many fields lying always along lines of progress and advancement, and he is numbered today among the men of ability and worth in the community.

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### JAMES P. BANNON.

Among Butler county's most progressive and successful native sons is numbered James P. Bannon, who owns and operates two farms in Madison township, one of one hundred and sixty acres and the other of eighty. He was born on the farm whereon he now resides July 31, 1871, his parents being James and Katherine (Coyle) Bannon, the former a native of County Carlow, Ireland, and the latter born in County Monaghan in 1831. The father came to America in his childhood, locating with his parents in Albany, New York, where he grew to manhood. He learned the bricklayer's trade and followed this in early life in Chicago, where his marriage occurred in 1856. Ten years later he came to Iowa, locating in Butler county. He purchased land in Madison township and erected thereon a good stone house, in which his son now resides and which is one of the two stone residences in the township. James Bannon worked at the bricklayer's trade and also engaged in general farming for the remainder of his life, dying upon his property in Butler county, October 4, 1911.

James P. Bannon was reared upon his father's farm in Madison township and remained at home until his marriage, which occurred in 1891. He then settled upon the farm on which he still resides and since that time has steadily carried forward the work of improvement and development. He has remodeled the stone house which his father erected; has built a new barn, a granary and corn cribs, and set out also a grove of fruit and ornamental trees. In addition to the home place of one hundred and sixty acres Mr. Bannon owns also a tract of eighty acres in the vicinity. He is a stockholder in the Butler County Telephone Company and in the Farmers Cooperative Telephone Company, and is recognized in business circles as a man of capacity, sound judgment and keen discrimination.

On the 18th of February, 1891, Mr. Bannon was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Kirby, a native of Iowa and a daughter of William Kirby, one of the early settlers in Butler county. Mr. and Mrs. Bannon are the parents of two children, Alice Katherine and James Francis, students in the public schools.

The parents are member of the Roman Catholic church and Mr. Bannon gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He is very prominent in public affairs and has served in various positions of trust and responsibility. For eight years he was township assessor and has also been prominently connected with educational interests, besides serving as a delegate to numerous county conventions. A residence in Butler county dating from his birth to the present time has made him well and favorably known, and he is justly regarded as one of the leading agriculturists and representative citizens of his locality.

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### JOHN H. BICKER.

John H. Bicker is the owner of a well improved farm of forty acres, located on section 31, Albion township, Butler county. He was born in Germany, on the 13th of February, 1856, a son of John H. and Anna K. (Kuhlman) Bicker, who were likewise natives of the fatherland, the former born in 1834, and the latter in 1839. The father was a linen weaver in his native country but he is now deceased, his death having occurred in 1905, while his wife died in 1903. They were the parents of nine children.



John H. Bicker acquired his education in the schools of Germany, attending to the age of fourteen years. He was then employed at farm labor until 1886, in which year he emigrated to the new world in the hope that he might better his financial condition. He first located in Illinois, there spending twelve years, or until 1898, when he came to Butler county and purchased ninety acres of land in Albion township. He cultivated this tract until 1910, when he disposed of it and purchased forty acres, his present farm, located on section 31, Albion township. He raises the various grains adapted to Iowa soil and is meeting with success in his work. Besides the horses necessary for carrying on his farm labor, he also keeps ten head of cattle and twenty head of hogs of good grade.

Mr. Bicker has been married twice. His first wife bore the maiden name of Dena Blohm and by her marriage became the mother of one daughter, Anna. The wife and mother departed this life in 1887, and on the 16th of February, 1900, in Parkersburg, Iowa, Mr. Bicker wedded Mrs. Anna Johnson, a widow, who had a daughter, Anna, who is still at home. Mr. Bicker's daughter is now the wife of Raymond Church, who is proprietor of a garage in Parkersburg.

In politics Mr. Bicker is a republican, while in religious faith he is a Baptist. He is much interested in the church and the work in its various departments, especially the Sunday-school department, of which he is the superintendent. He is a man of many sterling characteristics, respected and esteemed by all with whom he is brought in contact, either in a business or social way.

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#### ORLOW F. BLASIER.

During a period of residence in Butler county, covering thirty-nine years, Orlow F. Blasier has made valuable contributions to the advancement and growth of this part of Iowa, and as a resident of Greene, has since 1882, borne an active and honorable part in municipal development. His interests have been thoroughly identified with those of the city and have extended to many fields, but his most important work has been done in connection with the Shell Rock Valley Telephone Company, of which he has been president and manager since its organization.



ORLOW F. BLASIER

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION  
1897

Mr. Blasier is a native of New York, born in Oneida county, November 14, 1853. He was reared there, acquiring his primary education in the country school and supplementing this by a course at Casnovia college, from which he was graduated. He afterward engaged in teaching in Oneida county for two years, but in 1874, moved west to Iowa, locating in Butler county, where he purchased land. He bought one hundred and fifteen acres in Coldwater township and operated this for a number of years, adding to his holdings from time to time until he finally owned one hundred and seventy acres. In 1882, he rented this property and moved into Greene, where he has since resided. In the year of his arrival here he was elected justice of the peace and was reelected for twelve consecutive years. During this time he also engaged in promoting telephone companies in Greene, Marble Rock and Rockford, and he became very well known in these fields. In 1897 he purchased a telephone concern in Greene and organized the Shell Rock Valley Telephone Company, of which he has since served as president and manager. The company purchased a business house on the main street of the town and has established permanent offices on the second floor and it has direct connection with other lines for long or short distance and operates a complete exchange, where courteous, prompt and intelligent service can always be secured. Mr. Blasier has worked earnestly and persistently for the success of the concern and its growth and development is due largely to his energy and enterprise.

On the 6th of April, 1906, Mr. Blasier was united in marriage to Mrs. Elizabeth Reeve, who was born and reared in Greene. She has three children by her former marriage: Alice, the wife of N. E. Kester, of Greene; Elva, a trained nurse in Cedar Rapids; and Roger, an electrician. Mr. Blasier has a daughter by a former marriage; Celia, the wife of David Cates, of Marble Rock.

Mr. Blasier is well known in the Masonic fraternity, holding membership in the blue lodge at Greene, the Rockford chapter, the Waterloo commandery, the shrine at Cedar Rapids and the consistory at Davenport. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Mystic Workers, and he and his wife are identified with the Eastern Star. Mrs. Blasier is also a member of the Rebekahs and has served through all the chairs of her lodge and is past grand. Mr. Blasier gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is well known in its local ranks, having for the past four years served as a member of the town council and having always taken an active interest in public affairs. His resi-

dence in Butler county has covered a period of almost forty years and during that time his public spirit has never been doubted nor his business or personal integrity questioned. In consequence he holds the esteem and high regard of a large circle of friends.

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### ALBERT WILLIAM JENNY.

For twenty-two years Albert William Jenny has resided on the farm on section 16, Jackson township which is now his home. He was early thrown upon his own resources and is a self-made man, his life record indicating the fact that it is only through the pressure of adversity and the stimulus of opposition that the best and strongest in man is brought out and developed. Ohio numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Monroe county, February 19, 1863. His parents, John and Barbara (Shaffer) Jenny, were also natives of the same county, and the former was a son of John and Elizabeth Jenny, natives of Canton Berne, Switzerland. Coming to the United States in 1830, they made their way westward by way of the Erie canal and their remaining days were spent in Monroe county, Ohio, where John Jenny, Sr., engaged in farming. He had followed school-teaching in his native country and also engaged in teaching after coming to the new world. He was, however, a weaver by trade and in the United States gave his attention to agricultural pursuits and upon his farm reared his family of twelve children. The maternal grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. George Shaffer, who came from Stuttgart, Germany. Both died in Monroe county.

The death of John Jenny, Jr., occurred when his son, Albert William, was but one year of age, and the mother now resides in Moundsville, West Virginia, with her daughter, Lena, who is the wife of William Litman. There were but two children in the family, the daughter being the younger. Albert W. Jenny was reared in his native county, where he remained until twenty years of age. The experiences of his youth were those which usually come to the farm lad who divides his time between the work of the fields and the acquirement of an education in the public schools. Leaving Ohio, he went to Green county, Wisconsin, where he remained for seven years. In 1891 he came to his present place, on section 16, Jackson township. From an early age he has earned his own living and soon learned the value of money

and the forcefulness of industry and perseverance as factors in the attainment of success. His prosperity is attributable entirely to his own labors, and he is now the owner of a good farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which has been well developed by him. It was entirely destitute of improvements when he took possession, there being not even a fence, but he has erected good buildings and now has a property which forms one of the attractive features of the landscape.

In 1891, in Wisconsin, Mr. Jenny was united in marriage to Miss Frances Carter, who was born in Green county, that state, in 1870, a daughter of John and Dorothy (Hickman) Carter. The two children of this marriage are Herbert Newton and Edith Enola. In politics Mr. Jenny is a democrat and for four years filled the office of trustee of his township but has never cared for nor desired political preferment. He holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and has many friends both within and without that order.

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#### H. B. AKIN.

Among the early settlers and the progressive and valued residents of Butler county is numbered H. B. Akin, engaged in agricultural pursuits upon a fine tract of land adjoining the town of Dumont. For many years he was closely and prominently connected with educational interests of this section of the state and he was for two terms county superintendent of schools, a position which he filled with credit and ability. He was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, December 15, 1857, and there remained until he was six years of age, when the family removed to Greene county, Indiana. Five years later they came to Iowa, locating in Clarksville, this county, in 1868. He supplemented a primary-school education by a course in the Epworth Seminary and by one year in the State Normal School, after which he turned his attention to teaching. After teaching for ten years in the country schools he taught for two years in Dumont and then served for four years as county superintendent, being located in Allison and discharging the duties of that position in a manner which reflected credit upon his ability, energy and public spirit. After his term of service as county superintendent Mr. Akin resumed his teaching in the Dumont school and for some years thereafter

was closely connected with educational work as president of the Dumont school board. For a number of years past he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits and is now the owner of a small farm adjoining the city of Dumont.

On the 16th of November, 1898, Mr. Akin was united in marriage to Miss Anna Brown, a daughter of the Hon. H. C. Brown, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Akin are the parents of three children, Raymond B., Homer B. and Floy B.

Mr. Akin give his political allegiance to the republican party and has always been interested and active in public affairs, holding various positions of trust and responsibility. He served for four years as township clerk and has also been president of the republican township committee and a member of the county committee. On numerous occasions he was a delegate to county and congressional conventions and is always to be found among the leaders in the promotion of any worthy public project. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, having served through all the chairs of the local lodge, which he has also represented in the grand lodge of the state. He served three years as district deputy. He is also connected with the Rebekahs, the Yeomen and the Mystic Workers. He is one of the best known men in his part of Butler county, where he has resided since his childhood and where his many excellent qualities of mind and character have gained him the respect and esteem of all who have been in any way associated with him.

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### FRED O. NEWCOMB.

When this county was largely an unsettled and undeveloped district, only a few courageous pioneers having penetrated into Butler county, the Newcomb store, of which Fred O. Newcomb is now proprietor, was founded. That was in the year 1855. The family name has since figured continuously and honorably in connection with the material development and business activity of the county. Fred O. Newcomb was born in Shell Rock, April 9, 1858, his parents being Orlando S. and Huldah Caroline (Carter) Newcomb, who were natives of Geauga county, Ohio, the former born May 20, 1830, and the latter April 29, 1832. The ancestry can be traced back to Governor William E. Bradford, first gov-

ernor of Massachusetts, who came to America on the Mayflower. His daughter married a Newcomb from whom Fred O. Newcomb is descended, and thus he is entitled to membership in the society known as Descendants of the Mayflower. The father traveled over Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, selling notions from a wagon and arrived in Shell Rock on the 4th of July, 1855, when the first celebration held in the county was taking place. He enjoyed the hospitality of the people and was so well pleased with the indications and prospects of future development that he decided to locate here. He then returned to Ohio and on the 20th of September, 1855, was married. On the 8th of the following month, having returned to Shell Rock, he opened the Newcomb store, carrying a line of general merchandise. He was in business until his death, although he was not active in the management of the store during the latter part of his life. He at first had a small stock in a little room on the east side of the river and lived in a slab shanty. During the first winter of his residence here he froze his feet, so poor were the accommodations for heating the house. Difficulties and obstacles did not discourage him, and with persistent energy he worked his way upward, becoming in time a prosperous merchant. His brother-in-law, J. H. Carter became a partner in the business, which he conducted for three years, while O. S. Newcomb was in the army.

He enlisted from Shell Rock in the summer of 1862, becoming a member of Company E, Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for three years. For more than thirteen months he was held as a prisoner of war at Tyler, Texas. He was taken prisoner on General Banks' Red River Expedition on the 9th of April, 1864, and was incarcerated at Tyler until the close of the war. He was captured while assisting Fred Carter, his wife's youngest brother, from the field after he had been wounded. The commercial instinct was strong within him. He was a natural born trader and usually won success in all transactions. During the war while imprisoned he would sell tobacco to his army comrades, some of whom were unable to pay him until after they returned home following the close of hostilities. After the war was over Mr. Newcomb resumed business as a merchant of Shell Rock and was active in the store until 1904. The firm was Newcomb & Carter for some time. In 1884 their store was destroyed by fire, at which time Fred O. Newcomb became a partner in the reestablishment of the business, the store being opened where it is now. The business, however, has had a con-



tinuous existence since 1855 and is today the oldest mercantile enterprise of the county.

While at the front as a prisoner of war Orlando Newcomb was converted and joined the Christian church. He was afterward an active Christian man, and as there was no church of his denomination in his neighborhood he united with and was an earnest worker in the Methodist Episcopal church. He wore the grand army button and greatly enjoyed meeting with his former comrades—the boys in blue. He died in Shell Rock, March 2, 1904. His wife was a great union league worker during the war and afterward became very active in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, remaining president at Shell Rock for twenty years, or from the organization of the local union until her death, August 10, 1913. All this indicates how closely the Newcombs have been associated with the moral development, the substantial upbuilding and the progress of town and county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Newcomb were born three children: Fred O.; Minnie, the wife of T. S. Kenyon of Peoria, Illinois; and Mabel E., the wife of Frank T. Bement of Spokane, Washington, who is engaged in the wholesale lumber business.

Fred O. Newcomb attended the Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, and afterward entered the State University at Iowa City in 1878. He pursued a four years' course and was graduated in 1882 with the Bachelor of Arts degree. He remained there as business manager of the Iowa City Republican, a daily and weekly paper, in connection with which a bindery and publishing business was conducted. In 1884 when his father's store was destroyed by fire, he returned home and entered actively into the management of the business, with which he has since been connected. In the great fire of 1889 the store burned again but Mr. Newcomb rebuilt it on the same ground. He has here a two-story brick structure twenty-four by one hundred and twenty feet with a tin roof. He carries a large and selected line of goods and conducts an extensive and profitable business. He is thoroughly familiar with every detail of the trade, and his progressive methods, earnest desire to please his patrons and his fair dealing have constituted the basis of the success which has attended him since he became one of the owners of the establishment. He is likewise the owner of a farm in this county and another in Minnesota and is a stockholder in the Creamery Company of Shell Rock.

On the 9th of July, 1884, Mr. Newcomb was united in marriage to Miss Mary F. Kimball, who was born in Iowa City, and

is a daughter of Dr. George E. Kimball, of that place. Mrs. Newcomb was a school mate of her husband and a graduate of the university in the class of 1879. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Newcomb have been born three children: Gertrude, the wife of Dr. J. R. Thompson of Waterloo, Iowa; Francis H., who is associated with his father in business; and Martha, now a student in the State Normal school.

The elder daughter was graduated from the State University on the 25th anniversary of her father's graduation. She has three children. The son, Francis, married Miss Ona Emig of Santa Clara, California, and they have one child. It was in January, 1913, that Francis became his father's partner in business, the store being thus continued to the third generation.

In his political views Mr. Newcomb has ever been an earnest republican and was continuously called to office as alderman and mayor until, tiring of the work, he refused to again become a candidate. For twenty years he was a member of the school board but resigned that position when made a member of the board of regents of the Iowa State University by appointment of the state legislature, in which capacity he served until the board of regents was abolished in 1911. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, the Odd Fellows, and the Knights of Pythias. His record adds new laurels to those connected with the name. His father came to Iowa as a pioneer settler, and the work which he instituted has been carried on by the son amid changing surroundings and conditions. In all, Mr. Newcomb has manifested a spirit of enterprise that has been unfaltering and his progressiveness has been of untold value to the community as well as to himself.

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### CLAUS A. IBLINGS.

Since 1895 Claus A. Iblings has been closely connected with agricultural interests of Butler county and is today the proprietor of one of the finest farms in Monroe township. In addition to this he deals in real estate on an extensive scale and has acquired important interests along this line, standing among the men of marked ability and substantial worth in the community. He was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, February 20, 1871, and is a son of Ibling and Anna (Whilhelms) Iblings, natives of Germany, the former born in 1842 and the latter in 1846. The father came

to America about 1856, settling in Illinois, where he engaged in farming. In 1886 he moved to Butler county and followed agricultural pursuits here until his death in 1907. His wife has also passed away, her death having occurred in 1911. In their family were ten children: John, Christ, Katie, William, Claus A., Peter H., Henry, Emma, Herman and Anna.

Claus A. Iblings acquired his education in the district schools of Stephenson county and in public school in Parkersburg, Iowa. After he laid aside his books he worked for two years as a farm laborer and then spent a similar period of time operating rented land. In 1895 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in Monroe township and to this has since added one hundred and twenty acres, these two properties constituting his present holdings. He raises fine grades of hay, corn and oats and has important stock-raising interests, keeping thirty head of cattle and nine horses. He is also a large dealer in real estate and a stockholder in the First National Bank of Parkersburg and has been very successful in the conduct of his business interests.

On the 5th of March, 1894, Mr. Iblings married Miss Matie Slight, a daughter of Martin and Geeske (Junchens) Slight, the former a well known farmer in the vicinity of Parkersburg. Mr. and Mrs. Iblings have become the parents of six children, Earl, Grace, Martha, Annetta, Mathilda and Carl. Mr. Iblings is a member of the Baptist church and is a republican in his political views. He has gained an enviable reputation as a practical farmer and a progressive and farsighted business man.

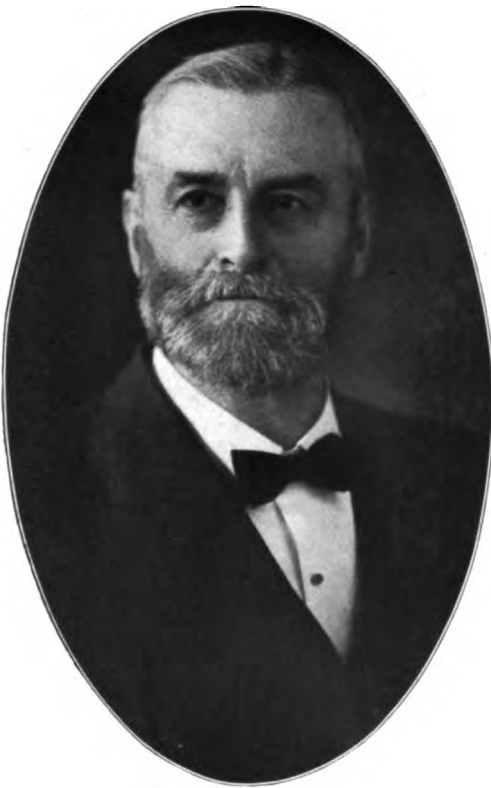
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#### WALTER G. AUSTIN.

Walter G. Austin, manager of the Austin estate and president of the Austinville Savings Bank, was born in Washington township, this county, on the 20th of December, 1872. He is a son of Henry and Sarah M. (Smith) Austin, the former born in England in 1844 and the latter in New Jersey in 1840. The father came to America when he was two years and a half old and settled with his parents in Michigan, but he grew to manhood in Grant county, Wisconsin. He afterward moved to Washington township, Butler county, Iowa, and remained one of the prominent and representative farmers of that locality until his death, which occurred in 1911, he having survived his wife six years. They were the par-

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**MR. AND MRS. HENRY AUSTIN**



MR. AND MRS. WALTER G. AUSTIN

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TILDEN FOUNDATION

ents of three children: Walter G., of this review; Alice E.; and Clarence W.

Walter G. Austin acquired his education in the district schools of Washington township and in the Waterloo Business College, which he attended for three years. After he laid aside his books he settled in Austinville, where in 1893 he took charge of his father's grain, coal, lumber and live-stock business. For the past three years he has been manager of the Austin estate, which is large and important, calling for the services of a man of unusual business ability and executive power. Mr. Austin is also president of the Austinville Savings Bank and a powerful factor in financial circles.

On the 12th of May, 1897, Mr. Austin married Miss Cora F. Dahn, a daughter of Fred E. and Minnie (Filk) Dahn. Mr. and Mrs. Austin have three children, Marguerite, Donald and Beryl. Mr. Austin is a member of the Presbyterian church and a republican in his political beliefs. He is one of the prominent business men and highly respected citizens of Austinville and of Washington township, and he enjoys the esteem and good-will of all who are brought in contact with him.

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### HARM VAN HAUEN.

Harm Van Hauen, one of the substantial and representative farmers of Albion township, was born in Germany, November 12, 1855. He is a son of Henry and Hattie (Johnson) Van Hauen, also natives of the fatherland, the former born April 4, 1824, and the latter August 5, 1824. The parents came to Iowa in 1878, and the father engaged in farming in this state until his death, March 8, 1908. He had survived his wife since April 4, 1904. Seven children were born to their union, Fannie, Henry, Harm, Okke, John, and two children who died in infancy.

Harm Van Hauen attended school in Germany until he was thirteen and one-half years of age and then accompanied his parents to America, completing his education at Florence Station, Illinois. At the age of sixteen he began working on his father's farm and so continued until 1878, when he moved to Butler county, renting a tract of eighty acres. He later purchased eighty acres of land, to which he added forty acres, paying for this last piece of property eighteen dollars and seventy-



five cents per acre. He disposed of this in 1893 and in the same year bought one hundred and eighty acres on sections 31 and 32, Albion township. He has since made his home upon this property, whereon he engages in general farming, dairying and stock-raising, keeping forty head of cattle, seventy-five hogs and twelve horses.

On the 13th of March, 1879, at Parkersburg, Mr. Van Hauen married Miss Mary Boomgaarden, a daughter of Okke Boomgaarden, and they have become the parents of eleven children. Hattie married Ben Adolph, a farmer in Marion township, and they have four children, Tillie, Hermann, Marie and one as yet unnamed. Okke became the wife of Trina De Groote, a farmer in Albion township. Lizzie married Henry De Groote, Jr., a farmer in Albion township, and they have four children, Henry, Harm, Anna and one who died in infancy. Fannie became the wife of George Wildefur, a farmer residing in Mason City, and they have two children, Benjamin and Harm. Amelia married Claus Klaasen, a farmer in Lyon county. The other members of the family are Henry, Harm, Jr., Ella, John, Marie, and a child, who died in infancy.

Mr. Van Hauen is a deacon in the German Reformed church and a republican in his political beliefs. For fourteen years he has been president and a director of the school-board and is now trustee of Albion township, discharging his duties in a creditable and farsighted manner. He holds a high place among the representative citizens in his locality and his worth is widely acknowledged.

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### JOHN ROTTINK.

It is not as easy task to sever home ties and go thousands of miles away from those among whom one's life has been passed. It requires courage to cast in one's lot in a community which has no connection with the old home, but this John Rottink did and he feels that he has had no occasion to regret the step. He was born in Holland, October 4, 1850, and is a son of Gerrit and Johannah (Buttega) Rottink, of whose family of nine children he is the second. He was the first of three brothers to come to Iowa, and the other two are still residents of this county and are mentioned elsewhere in this volume. All three had worked in a weav-

ing factory in Enschede before crossing the Atlantic. John Rottink was employed in the factory from the time that he was seven and a half years of age until he reached the age of twenty-four years when he came to the United States. He left home, however, on attaining his majority and the first year thereafter the only money which was not expended for actual necessities was eight cents which he paid for apples. He saved money with which to come to the United States, it requiring five years to accumulate enough to meet the expenses of the trip. In 1874 he crossed the Atlantic and made his way direct to Butler county, Iowa, where he worked for three and a half years on a farm for Louis Hoffe. During the first four months he received fifteen dollars per month and through the winter was paid but ten dollars per month. The succeeding year he was paid eighteen dollars per month for a part of the time and twenty dollars for the remainder, and during the last year he was paid twenty-five dollars per month acting as overseer of the farm. He afterward worked for a year for Joe Linn, after which he rented a farm for two years. He next bought eighty acres and to this he added as he could until he is now the owner of four valuable farms, aggregating eight hundred acres. He operates only the home farm himself, comprising one hundred and twenty acres on section 6, Jefferson township. All of the farms have been well improved by him and in connection with tilling the soil, he has engaged in masonry, carpenter work and painting.

He now has a good home situated on a hill commanding a fine view over an area of twelve miles of prairie country. In addition to his Iowa property he at one time had two hundred and seventy acres in Texas which he sold, and he now has one hundred and sixty acres in Missouri, together with one hundred and seventy acres on section 4, Ripley township, and two hundred and eighty acre on sections 20, 21 and 28, Jefferson township. He carries on general farming and stock-raising and both branches of his business have proven profitable.

When twenty-nine years of age Mr. Rottink was married in Cedar Falls, Blackhawk county, to Carolina Negel, who was born in Butler county, November 16, 1861, a daughter of John H. Negel, who was from the same town in Holland as her husband. He now resides in Shell Rock and is almost a centenarian. He settled in Illinois when but seventeen years of age and later became a pioneer of Butler county, where he purchased land for two dollars and a quarter per acre. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Rottink

have been born seven children: Hendrick, who died in infancy; Horace E., living in western Canada; Etta, the wife of William Dailey, of Shell Rock; Amy, the wife of Meno Van Sam, of Bennett township; Levi, at home; Fenie, wife of John Clear, living near Parkersburg; and Helen, at home. All of the children were born in Jefferson township. The parents are members of the Evangelical church, and Mr. Rottink has always been a republican since he became a naturalized American citizen. His life record should serve as a source of encouragement and inspiration to others, showing what may be accomplished when one is willing to work and one's labors are directed by intelligence. Energy and perseverance have brought him to his present enviable position as one of the prosperous farmers of the county.

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### HOULIHAN BROTHERS.

Beaver township finds progressive and worthy representatives of its agricultural interests in John and Thomas Houlihan, comprising the firm of Houlihan Brothers, farmers and stock-raisers on section 35. They are members of one of the best known pioneer families of this locality, their father, Maurice Houlihan, having been one of the first settlers in this part of Iowa. He was born in Ireland in 1823 and when he was twenty years of age emigrated to America, landing in New Orleans. He there worked as a laborer and afterward on railroad construction, making his way from New Orleans to Dubuque, Iowa. From Dubuque he moved to Cedar Falls. He became the first section boss on the Illinois Central Railroad in New Hartford. At a very early date he moved into Butler county and took up land in this locality when pioneer conditions prevailed everywhere and when Indians were camped on the river bank two hundred feet from the home of the subjects of this review. Maurice Houlihan cultivated and improved eighty acres of land on section 35, Beaver township, and remained a resident of this locality until his death in 1888. His wife, who was in her maidenhood Miss Bridget Moore, was born in Ireland in 1821 and died in 1886. In this family were four children, Anastasia, John, Thomas and Maurice. All are single with the exception of the last mentioned, who has been three times married. He now makes his home in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin.

John and Thomas Houlihan and their sister Anastasia were educated in the public schools of Butler county and the brothers have been engaged in farming since the beginning of their active career. They and their sister own two hundred and thirty-five acres of land lying on sections 34 and 35, Beaver township, and upon this fine property they reside. They raise hay and grain and keep sixty head of cattle, two hundred hogs and eight horses. The Houlihan Brothers have been very successful in the conduct of their interests, steadily carrying forward the work of developing their holdings along progressive and practical lines, and they have now one of the finest and most modern farms in this locality. They are stockholders in the New Hartford Creamery Company and own the site and buildings of the New Hartford Farmers Savings Bank, one dwelling in New Hartford, four lots and one business building. They are resourceful and farsighted business men, careful in the management of their extensive interests and able to carry forward to successful completion whatever they undertake. They are members of the Roman Catholic church and give their political allegiance to the democratic party. In business circles they have attained an enviable reputation, and their personal characteristics have gained them the esteem and confidence of many friends.

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### B. F. HAMILTON.

B. F. Hamilton, living on section 8, Butler township, has followed farming throughout his entire life and for twelve years has lived at his present place of residence, where he carries on general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He was born in Franklin county, Iowa, March 26, 1878, and is a son of William and Martha (Quiggle) Hamilton. The father, a native of Ireland, was born August 20, 1834, and after arriving at years of maturity he was married November 17, 1856, to Miss Mary Dave, by whom he had five children: Mrs. Mary Etta Hance, of South Dakota; Margaret Elizabeth, deceased; John W., living in Minnesota; George, also a resident of that state; and James Atlas, of Franklin county, Iowa. Having lost his first wife, Mr. Hamilton was again married, his second union being with Miss Martha Quiggle, who was born in this country in 1844, but was of German and Scotch descent. They were married in DeWitt county, Iowa,

the father having come to this state when sixteen years of age, while the mother accompanied her parents to Iowa in her early girlhood. Following their marriage they removed from DeWitt to Franklin county and thence came to Butler county, where the father died June 5, 1896, when in his sixty-second year. The mother survives and is now living in Elgin, Illinois. The children of this marriage were: Ada Maria, now deceased; William H., a resident of Colorado; Mary Etta, who has also passed away; B. F.; and Oliver Lyle, deceased.

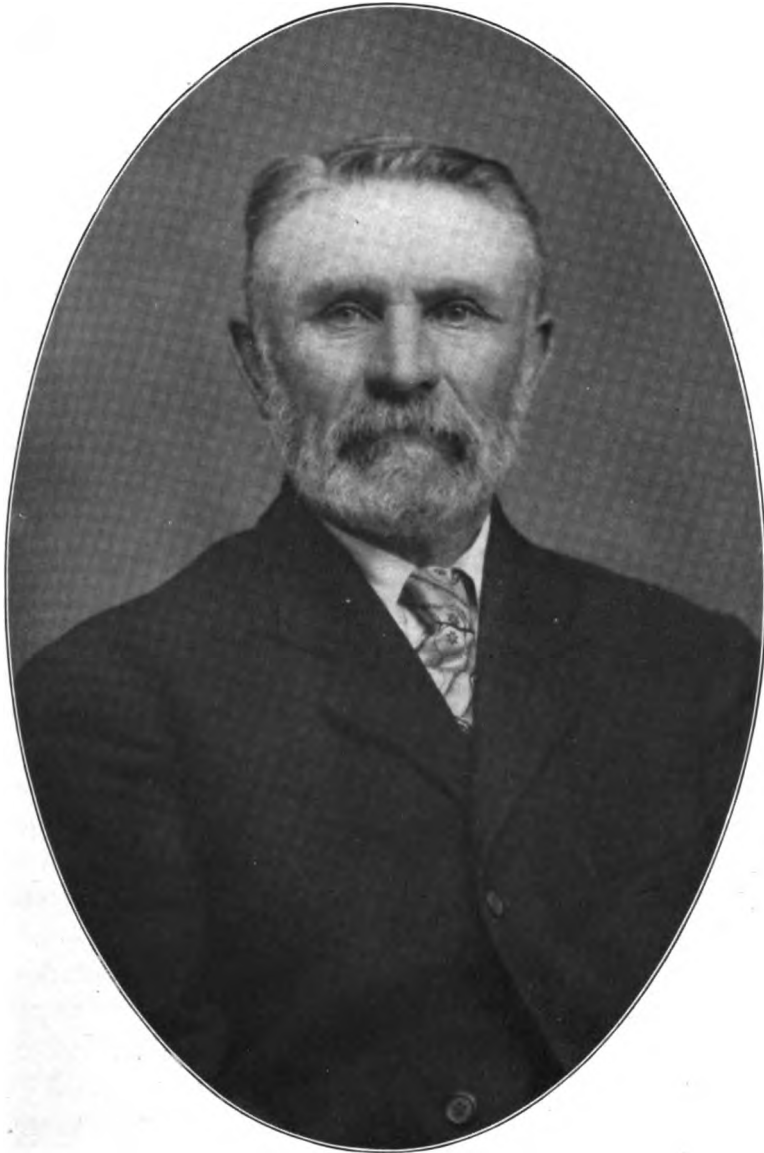
From the age of eight years B. F. Hamilton has lived in Butler county and has a wide acquaintance among its citizens. He has always followed farming, save for a period of a few months, in which he engaged in the marble business at Charles City. For twelve years he has remained upon his present farm, comprising one hundred acres on sections 5 and 8, Butler township, his residence standing on section 8. The place has been well improved by Mr. Hamilton, who carries on general farming and stock-raising. His modern and progressive methods are followed by excellent results.

On the 1st of March, 1899, Mr. Hamilton married Miss Flora Gabby, who was born in Butler township in 1880, a daughter of Beveridge T. and Ellen (Henney) Gabby, the former deceased and the latter a resident of Clarksville. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have two children; Lyle and Grace. Mr. Hamilton is a Mason in full sympathy with the principles of the society. In politics he is a republican, stalwart in support of the party principles. He was appointed to fill a vacancy in the office of township trustee and was then elected to the position which he is now filling. For the past eight years he has been president of the township school board, and the cause of education finds in him a warm and stalwart friend, who does all in his power to further the interests of the schools.

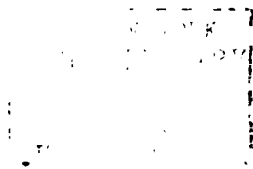
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### HERMAN ROTTINK.

Herman Rottink, busily engaged with agricultural pursuits, has owned and operated his present farm on sections 26 and 27, Butler township since 1899. It is situated on the Shell Rock river from which it derives its name of Riverview Farm. It is unsurpassed in beauty, equipment and progressiveness by any farm of



HERMAN ROTTINK



Butler township and the owner has every reason to be proud of the record which he has made as an agriculturist, having worked his way upward from a humble position to one of affluence. He was born in the Netherlands on the 1st of January, 1849, and is a son of Gerrit and Hannah (Buttega) Rottink, who spent their entire lives in their native land, the father acting as gardener for wealthy families.

Herman Rottink was the youngest of a family of nine children, two of whom came to the United States. He arrived in the year 1883, hoping to find better opportunities in the new world than he could secure in his native land. While in Holland he had served for four years, from 1869 until 1873, in the army. He worked in a cotton factory in Holland and understands the manufacture of all kinds of cotton cloth. He did not see any chance of rapid progress along business lines, however, and attracted by the more favorable opportunities of the new world, he came to the United States, accompanied by his wife and two children, arriving in Butler county in 1883. He had incurred an indebtedness of one hundred and one dollars in order to come to the new world and during the first year he worked out as a farm hand, but the second year he rented the land. He practiced rigid economy and carefully saving his earnings at length secured a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase his present farm in 1899. It comprises two hundred and forty-eight acres on sections 26 and 27, Butler township, and when he took possession the buildings upon it were an old house, which was a combination of brick and frame, an old barn and an old corn crib. He now has a large three story modern residence of eight rooms, a big barn eighty by forty feet with hip roof and sheds and outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock.

He carries on general farming and stock-raising and has every reason to be proud of the fact that he has made the Riverview Farm the finest in Butler township. He has also become a stockholder in the Farmers State Bank of Shell Rock and in the Shell Rock Creamery.

In 1873 Mr. Rottink was married to Miss Swenna Schmidt, who was born in Hanover, November 28, 1848. The children of this marriage are seven in number: Greit, at home; Hannah, the wife of K. Pitcher, living on a neighboring farm; Emma, the wife of Ernest Graham of Clarksville; Herman, twin brother to Emma, now assisting in the work of the home farm; Cora, the wife of Hollie Pulis of Butler township; Sarah, at home; and Mary, the



wife of Al Kimball of Clear Lake, Iowa. The five younger children were born in this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Rottink hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and they have become widely and favorably known during the thirty years of their residence in this county. Mr. Rottink may truly be called a self-made man and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. Starting out in life empty-handed he has worked his way steadily upward and determination, energy, frugality and industry have been the crowning points in his career.

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### HIRAM E. FRENCH.

Hiram E. French carries on general farming on section 8, Butler township and is the owner of a well improved place constituting the northeast quarter. The changes he has made have converted this into a valuable farm from which he annually gathers good crops as the reward of his industry, perseverance and sound judgment. A native of Grant county, Wisconsin, he was born May 30, 1858, and is the son of George and Persis (Scott) French. The father's birth occurred in Montreal, Canada, in 1818, and the mother was born in Chautauqua county, New York, February 17, 1834. With her parents she removed westward to Freeport, Illinois, and thence went to Wisconsin. George French also lived for a time in Freeport, before removing to Wisconsin, but it was in the latter state that they were married, the wedding being celebrated in Grant county, December 6, 1854. Sixteen years later, or in 1870, they came to Butler county, Iowa, and their remaining days were spent here upon the farm. The father died February 15, 1897, having for about fourteen years survived his wife, who passed away April 2, 1883. They were active members of the United Brethren church and throughout their earnest Christian lives displayed many sterling traits of heart and mind. They had five children: Mrs. Emma Crawford, who died in Oregon; Hiram E.; Emery, who also passed away in Oregon; Delbert, who died in Clarksville; and one son, who died in infancy.

Hiram E. French was a lad of twelve summers at the time the family removed to Iowa, and here he has since lived, being actively identified throughout his entire life with general agri-

cultural pursuits. He is today the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, constituting the northeast quarter of section 8, Butler township. Upon the place is a fine old home, which was built by his father-in-law, who was a carpenter and owned the eighty acre tract on which the house is located. There are good sheds and barns for the shelter of grain and stock, all of which were built by Mr. French, and the farm presents a neat and thrifty appearance, indicating his careful supervision and practical, progressive methods.

On the 27th of April, 1881, Mr. French was married to Miss Jessie Shadbolt, who was born in Clarksville, May 31, 1863, and has spent her entire life in this county. She is a daughter of Jerome and Louise (Main) Shadbolt, who were natives of New York and were married in Wisconsin. They were early settlers of Butler county, and the father died in this county, but the mother is now living in Clarksville. Mr. and Mrs. French have become the parents of three children: Clem E., who was born August 2, 1883, and died February 12, 1884; Loraine J., the wife of Ervin Klingman, who resides on a farm near her father's; and Earl H., who was born June 22, 1898, and died May 18, 1901. The daughter was born March 20, 1886. The parents are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. French gives his political support to the republican party. He has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, and the care with which he has managed his farming interests, combined with his industry and perseverance, have brought him substantial and well merited success.

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### JOHN REWERTS.

John Rewerts, carrying on general farming and stock-raising upon a fine property of one hundred and twenty acres on section 10, Madison township, was born in Iowa, October 9, 1875, and is a son of Johan Rewerts, a native of Germany. The father came to America when he was a young man and settled immediately in Grundy county, Iowa, where he married Miss Tetta Boedeker. He afterward purchased a tract of wild land in Madison township, Butler county, and opened up a new farm, gradually adding to his holdings until he owned one hundred and thirty-seven acres in his homestead as well as three other fine properties in the

vicinity. He is today one of the valued and respected residents of Madison township and has reached the advanced age of seventy-six years.

John Rewerts was brought to Butler county in 1879 and reared upon his father's farm in Madison township, acquiring his education in the district schools. When he was twenty-three years of age he rented land in Madison township and at the end of three years rented another tract from his father which he afterward purchased and whereon he still resides. He has made excellent improvements upon it, fencing the fields, setting out fruit, shade and ornamental trees and adding to the buildings and equipment. He raises a good grade of Durham cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and work horses, and his extensive interests are managed always in a capable and progressive way. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company and also in the Butler County Telephone Company.

On the 7th of January, 1903, Mr. Rewerts was united in marriage to Miss Jabena Ruter, a native of Madison township, and they became the parents of two children, but one, an infant son, died in 1912. The other is a daughter, Tetta Tena.

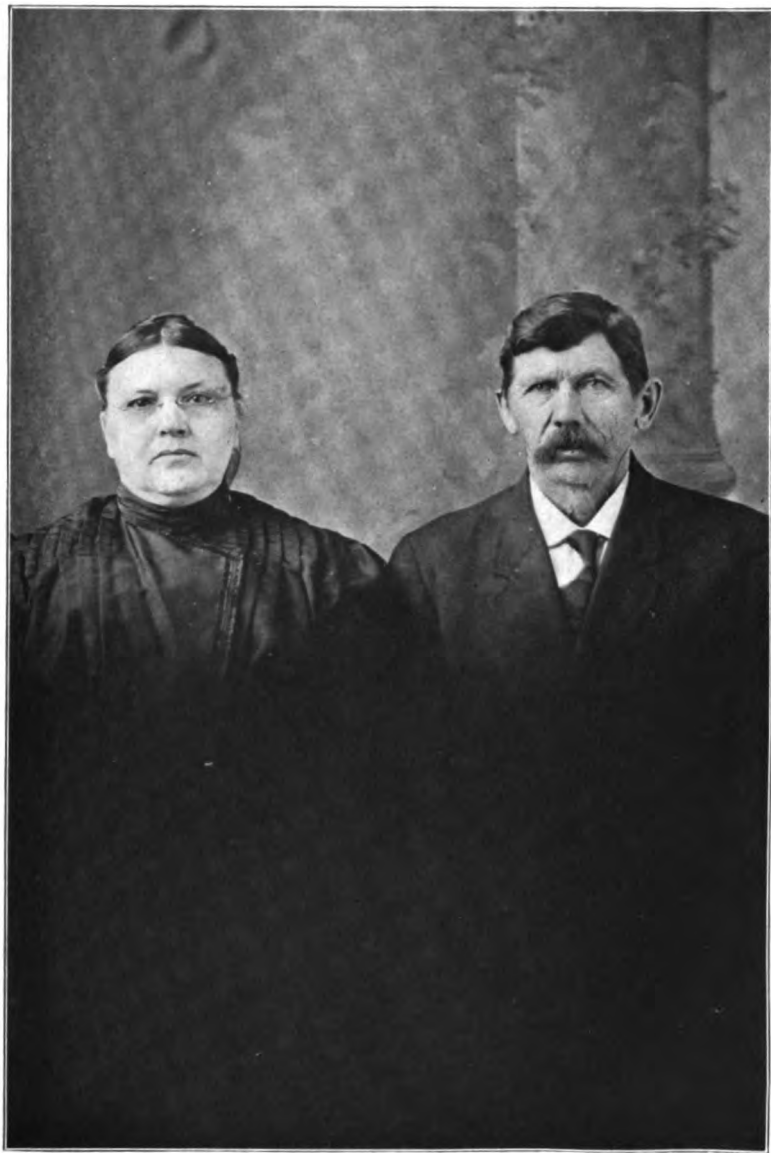
The parents are members of the German Reformed church of Dumont. Mr. Rewerts gives his political allegiance to the republican party and served as a member of the school board for a number of years. He is a progressive, practical and successful farmer, and he holds the esteem and confidence of all who are in any way associated with him.

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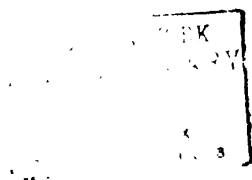
### HENRY C. ROVER.

Among the prosperous and progressive agriculturists of Butler county is numbered Henry C. Rover, who since 1886 has been closely connected with agricultural interests of Coldwater township, where he owns two hundred acres of land. He was born in Bremer county, this state, April 30, 1859, and is a son of Henry and Louise (Gurgens) Rover, of whom more extended mention is made elsewhere in this work.

Henry C. Rover was reared upon his father's farm in Bremer county, remaining at home until he reached maturity. When he began his independent career he worked for three or four years as a farm laborer, and then, in 1886, moved to Butler county,



MR. AND MRS. HENRY C. ROVER



locating on land in Coldwater township which he purchased from his father. He began with one hundred and eighteen acres and this he broke, fenced and improved. Later he added to his holdings and his property now aggregates two hundred acres, well equipped and well managed in every particular. Mr. Rover has erected upon it a comfortable farm house, has fenced and cross fenced his fields with woven wire and has put out a grove of forest and evergreen trees. He has erected a barn, granary and cribs, has installed a wind pump and has made other important improvements, neglecting nothing which would add to the appearance or value of the property. In addition to general farming he engages extensively in stock-raising, keeping good grades of cattle, horses, sheep and hogs. He also operates a model dairy, owning a number of milch cows. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Elevator & Grain Company and is a man of recognized business ability and discrimination.

In Bremer county, on the 12th of March, 1886, Mr. Rover married Miss Emma Kaiser, also a native of that locality, and a daughter of Henry and Emily (Gromoe) Kaiser. The father died in 1906, and the mother now resides in Waverly, Iowa. Mr. Kaiser was a veteran of the Civil war, enlisting in the Fifty-fifth Illinois Infantry and he served throughout the entire period to the close of the war. He was wounded and did valiant service for the union. Mr. and Mrs. Rover have become the parents of seven children: William H., who resides in Waverly; Minnie, the wife of Chris Hencken, a farmer of Butler county; Henry F.; Emil J.; John W.; Lillian; and Elmer, who died at the age of eighteen months.

Mr. Rover is a member of the Lutheran church and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has, however, never sought nor desired public office, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his business affairs, which are capably conducted and are bringing him a gratifying measure of success.

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### OKKE VAN HAUEN.

Germany has furnished to Butler county many of its representative citizens, and among this class may be numbered Okke Van Hauen, who is the owner of two hundred six and a half acres of fine farming land on section 28, Albion township. As above

mentioned, he was born in the fatherland on the 24th of September, 1858, a son of Henry and Hattie (Johnson) Van Hauen, who were likewise natives of that country, the former born April 4, 1824, and the latter on the 5th of August, 1824. The father followed farming as a life work. He remained in his native land until 1870, when, believing that he might better provide for his family in the new world, he emigrated to America, locating first in Freeport, Illinois. After eight years spent there, however, he came to Butler county and here spent his remaining years, passing away March 8, 1908, when he had almost reached the advanced age of eighty-four years. His wife preceded him in death, passing away April 4, 1904. They became the parents of seven children, Fannie, Henry, Harm, Okke, John, and two who died in infancy.

Okke Van Hauen, the subject of this review, was reared in Germany to the age of eleven years, when he accompanied his parents on their removal to this country. His education, which was begun in Germany, was continued for five years in the school at Florence Station, Illinois. After putting aside his text-books, he was employed at farm labor until 1882, when, having in the meantime acquired a sum sufficient to begin business on his own account, he rented a tract of land, cultivating the same during the next decade. He met with success in this venture, for he has ever been diligent and economical, and at the end of ten years he found himself in possession of a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase land, becoming the owner of two hundred six and a half acres, located on section 28, Albion township. He carries on his work according to the most modern methods, keeps his land in condition, and therefore annually harvests excellent crops as a reward for his labor. He keeps on hand forty head of cattle, making a specialty of raising beef cattle, has eleven horses, and raises one hundred head of hogs for the market each year.

It was on the 4th of April, 1882, that Mr. Van Hauen established a home of his own by his marriage in Parkersburg, Iowa, to Miss Aleida Leister, a daughter of John and Johanna (Wellman) Leister. The father was proprietor of a hotel in Germany and also conducted a meat market. He came with his family to Iowa in 1880 and has since made his home in this state. Mr. and Mrs. Van Hauen have become the parents of eight children, as follows: Henry, who is a merchant of Parkersburg, and wedded Miss May Sensenbach, by whom he has one daughter, Beulah; John, who is in business in partnership with his brother Henry, and who wedded Miss Minnie Peterson, by whom he has one

child, Gale; Hattie, who is the wife of Chris Schalzberg, a farmer of Jackson township, by whom she has three children, John, Aleida and Otis; Jennie, who is the wife of Henry Boike, a farmer of Beaver township; May; Heman; August; and Alice.

A republican in politics, Mr. Van Hauen has been called upon to serve in many public offices, the duties of which he has always discharged faithfully and well. For ten years he served as president of the school board, while at the present time he is serving as treasurer of the same. For six years he likewise served as road superintendent, while for one term he filled the office of assessor. He belongs to the German Baptist church, of which he is a trustee. He is devoted to his home and his family and takes keen delight in his church work. He is loyal to his adopted country and in his dealings with his fellowmen is honest and straightforward in a marked degree, so that all who know him have for him the highest esteem.

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### JAMES H. AMICK.

James H. Amick of Shell Rock, is the owner of valuable property interests in the town and also of two excellent farms in the county. His possessions are the visible evidence of his life of thrift and industry, and it has been through determined purpose and unfaltering labor that his possessions have accrued. Mr. Amick is a native of Summerville, Nicholas county, West Virginia. He was born March 21, 1852, a son of Gideon and Emily (Stuart) Amick, the former a native of Monroe county, West Virginia, and the latter of Greenbrier county, of the same state. The paternal grandfather, John Amick, was a native of North Carolina and was of German descent. He was a powder manufacturer and also engaged in teaching school. Emigrating to West Virginia, he married Martha Hage, who was a native of Germany. They had nine sons and three daughters, the family including Gideon Amick, who wedded Emily Stuart. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gideon Amick were born ten children: Rebecca, who became the wife of Daniel Wahl and is now deceased; Minerva, who became the wife of Bert Hibbs and has also passed away; William, living in San Francisco, California; Ira S., a resident of Shell Rock township; James H.; Isabella, who is the widow of Lovett Sherwood and resides at Shell Rock; Mary Elizabeth, who died in Linn county, Iowa, in



1867; John Henry, living near Seattle, Washington; Perry, who died in 1861; and Emily, who died in infancy, soon after the mother's death. The mother died in October, 1861, when her son, James, was but nine years of age. She was of Scotch lineage and her last days were spent in Waterloo, Iowa. It was in 1852 that the family removed from West Virginia to Elkhart, Indiana, where they remained until the fall of 1855 and then came to Iowa, settling in Linn county. There they resided until March, 1861, when they became residents of Waterloo. The mother died soon afterward but the family continued to reside there until August, 1867, when they came to Shell Rock, where the father passed away six years later, or in 1873. He was a stone cutter, following that trade throughout his entire life.

Since 1867 James H. Amick has resided in Shell Rock with the exception of two years spent in California. He worked at the stone cutter's trade, which he learned under the direction of his father, but after following that pursuit for three years he turned his attention to farming and was actively connected with the tilling of the soil until 1895, since which time he has made his home in the town. He is still the owner of two farms in Shell Rock township, one comprising two hundred acres and the other eighty-eight acres. This is valuable property and returns to him a gratifying annual income. In addition he owns the opera house which was built in 1888 by a stock company, of which Mr. Amick was one. Gradually he acquired the interests of the other stockholders and is now sole proprietor. His attention is given merely to the supervision of his business investments, which are now large and bring to him a gratifying return.

Mr. Amick has been married twice. On the 14th of April, 1874, he wedded Ella Hitchcock, who died August 18, 1877, leaving one child, Mabel, who is now the wife of Harvey Metzger, a farmer living near Shell Rock. On the 14th of June, 1883, Mr. Amick wedded Addie Bowen, and they have five children: Blanche, the wife of Forest Shipman of Bremer county; Mamie, the wife of Launie Bisplinghoff, of Shell Rock; Arnold, Lawrence and Mildred, all at home.

Mr. Amick's political position has never been an equivocal one. He has always supported the democratic party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, his first vote being cast for Samuel J. Tilden for president. He has served on the city council for six years and has been a member of the board of education for the past fifteen years. He is a strong temperance

man and is one of the oldest members of the Odd Fellows at Shell Rock, having joined on the 5th of January, 1878. His influence is always on the side of right, progress, reform and improvement, and his sterling worth is recognized by all with whom he has come in contact so that the circle of his friends has been a constantly growing one.

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### GEORGE O. TOLL.

Important agricultural and business interests claim the attention and profit by the cooperation and sound judgment of George O. Toll. He accomplishes what he undertakes by reason of enterprising methods, determined effort and unfaltering industry. He has a wide acquaintance in this county, in which his entire life has been passed, his birth having occurred in Jefferson township, March 19, 1876, his parents being Frederick and Jane (Borchers) Toll, now residents of Shell Rock. Their family numbered eight children, of whom George was the fifth in order of birth. He was reared as the other members of the family, upon the home farm, and at the usual age entered the district schools, in which he acquainted himself with the common branches of learning, thus laying the foundation for his later success. When not busy with his text-books his time was largely given to farm work, and the practical experience which he received under the direction of his father constituted the foundation upon which he has builded his advancement and his prosperity. He now cultivates one hundred and eighty acres of his father's land, and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place, which is situated on section 16, Jefferson township, indicates his progressive methods and enterprising spirit. He makes his efforts count for the utmost, and his well managed business affairs have classed him with the substantial farmers of the community. His progressiveness is further indicated in the active interest which he has taken in business affairs having much to do with the common welfare. He is now president of the Jefferson Telephone Company, a farmers' cooperative company, is a stockholder in the Farmers' Cooperative Elevator Company of Allison and is secretary and treasurer of the South-eastern Threshing Company, a company with twelve stockholders.

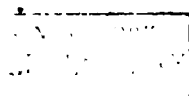
On the 30th of December, 1901, Mr. Toll was united in marriage to Miss Mabel Winona Hewitt, who was born in Charles

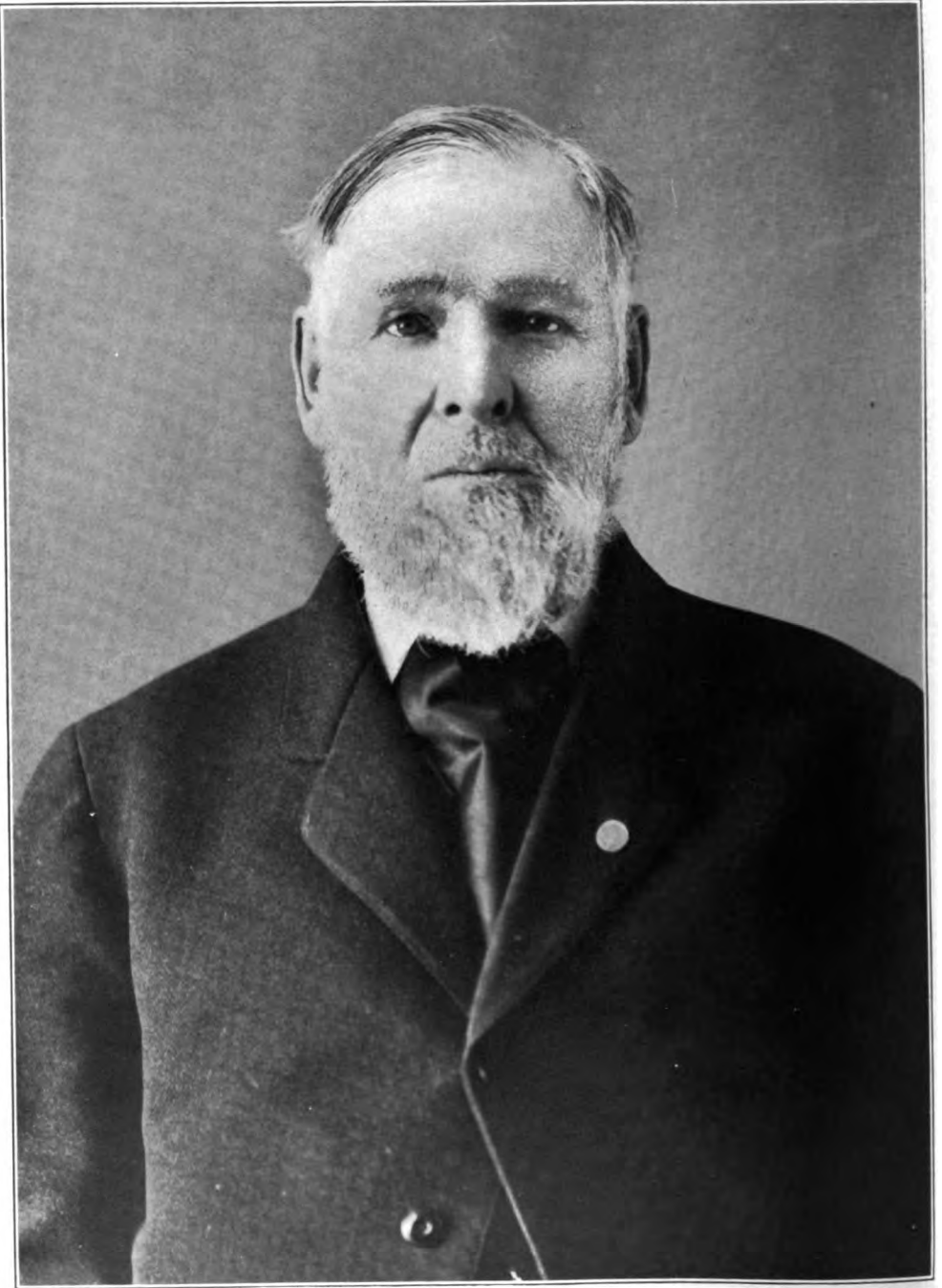
Mix county, South Dakota, August 9, 1880, and has the distinction of being the first white girl born in the county (the name Winona, in the Sioux language, means first girl). She was a maiden of ten or twelve summers when her parents, William and Jennie (Kirk) Hewitt, came to Iowa. Her father was a native of Honington, England, born December 21, 1846, and the mother's birth occurred in Ohio, September 8, 1852. They were married in South Dakota, seven years after his arrival in the United States, the wedding being celebrated on Christmas day of 1878. Throughout his life Mr. Hewitt carried on farming and removed to Butler county, where he continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits until his life's labors were ended in death on the 1st of January, 1902. His widow survives him and yet makes her home in this county. They were the parents of three children: Mrs. Toll; Myrtle Margaret, now the wife of William A. Toll, of Jefferson township; and Grant Ross, living in the same township. Mr. and Mrs. George O. Toll have two children: Winona Jennie, who was born June 15, 1904; and Rosamond Margaret, born April 5, 1906. While the family home is on section 16, Jefferson township, Mr. Toll owns an eighty-acre tract of land on section 1, Fremont township. His political indorsement is given to the republican party and for the past three years he has filled the office of assessor of his township, while at the present writing he is secretary of the township school board. He was reared in the German Lutheran church but since his marriage has attended and supports the Congregational church, of which his wife is a member. They are both held in high esteem socially, and their own home is a hospitable one, whose good cheer is greatly enjoyed by their many friends.

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#### HON. H. C. BROWN.

In 1866, one year after the close of the Civil war, in which he had rendered the Union valuable and faithful service, Hon. H. C. Brown came to Iowa and in the following year settled in Butler county, where his citizenship has since been regarded as one of the greatest single forces in community upbuilding. For over thirty years he has resided on his present farm near Dumont but he has not by any means confined his attention to its cultivation,





HON. H. C. BROWN



MRS. H. C. BROWN

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although he has made it a valuable and productive property. He has established a number of business enterprises and has besides done notable work in the field of public service, where his conscientiousness, enterprise and sound political judgment have brought him into prominence. Mr. Brown was born in Belknap county, New Hampshire, January 1, 1831, and grew to manhood on a farm there, his educational advantages being confined to those offered by the common schools. After his marriage, which occurred in 1856, he engaged in farming on rented land in New Hampshire for some years and was meeting with a gratifying measure of success when in the panic of 1857 he lost all of his fortune. In August, 1864, he enlisted in the First Heavy Artillery and was sent to Washington, where he did guard duty during the Civil war, rising from the rank of private to that of orderly sergeant. He received his honorable discharge at the close of the war and was mustered out of service in July, 1865.

In his early manhood Mr. Brown had learned the shoemaker's trade and followed this for some time after his return from the army, working at his trade during the winter months and during the summer aiding in the operation of his father's farm. In 1866 he came west to Iowa and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of wild land in Blackhawk county. He broke the soil and after making a number of improvements upon the place sold it and purchased an eighty acre tract near Waterloo. Soon afterward he returned to New Hampshire but in 1867 came again to Iowa, settling in Butler county, where he has since resided. In 1876 he bought six hundred and eighty acres near the town of Dumont and at the same time rented a tract of three hundred and twenty acres, upon which he made his home while carrying out the improvements upon the land which he owned. For many years thereafter he engaged to some extent in buying and dealing in farming property and recently sold his six hundred and forty acre tract for sixty-four thousand dollars. At the present he owns a farm lying partly within the corporate limits of Dumont and is erecting upon it a modern residence which when completed will be one of the finest of its kind in Butler county. He has resided upon this property for over thirty years and the results of his careful supervision and intelligent management are evident in the appearance of the farm, which is up-to-date in every particular. It is equipped with substantial barns and out-buildings, the fields are fenced and crossfenced and a grove of evergreen and ornamental trees affords the necessary wind break.



Although Mr. Brown is regarded as one of the leading agriculturists of Butler county, his interests have extended to many other fields, touching closely the business development of this section of the state. In 1880 he opened a lumberyard in Dumont and is still connected with the conduct of this enterprise, controlling a large and profitable business. He was a promoter of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Butler county and served as president and as treasurer of this organization. To his initiative spirit and executive ability the First National Bank of Parkersburg owes its existence and to his unusual financial acumen is due a great deal of its present prosperity. He served as its first president and his ability, enterprise and energy influenced its policy for many years thereafter. In addition to these enterprises Mr. Brown was a promoter of the Cooperative Creamery Association and the Farmers Elevator Company of Dumont and has accomplished a great deal of important work in the best interests of his town and county.

Since the organization of the republican party Mr. Brown has been one of its most earnest and loyal advocates. Previous to its establishment he affiliated with the old line whigs but since the Civil war has been a staunch republican, supporting the principles and candidates of this party with the same energy and singleness of purpose which mark his efforts in whatever direction they are turned. He served as a member of the Nineteenth general assembly of Iowa and upon the completion of his term was reelected to that body. His public spirit and political ability carried him forward into close connection with important legislative interests, as is evident by the fact that he was chairman of the committee on cities and towns and prominent in the work of eight or ten other committees, his legislative record being varied in service and faultless in honor. A staunch advocate of the cause of temperance, Mr. Brown was fearless in his support of prohibition principles in the house of representatives and by untiring work upon the floor of the house accomplished the passage of a number of temperance measures. He has held various other positions of public trust and responsibility and has been a delegate to numerous state, county and congressional conventions.

On the 16th of September, 1856, in Belknap county, New Hampshire, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Mary F. Bickford, a daughter of Captain Arthur Bickford, one of the prominent men of that locality. Mr. and Mrs. Brown became the parents of three children, one of whom, a daughter, Clara, died

at the age of seven years. The others are: Anna, the wife of H. B. Akin, former superintendent of schools of Butler county; and George S., of Dumont, of the firm of George S. Brown, Son & Company, dealers in lumber, etc.

Mr. Brown is connected with the blue lodge in Masonry and is a member of the Grand Army post at Bristow. During the forty-six years of his residence here he has been one of the greatest individual forces in the promotion of the general good of the community, a moving spirit in the organization and support of various progressive public projects. The years have brought him success, prominence and a substantial fortune and today, at the age of eighty-three, he seems yet in his prime in spirit and interests, a man of keen intellectual power, unusual business ability and progressive public spirit.

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#### PETER H. IBLINGS.

Among the men of Butler county who have made substantial contributions to the advancement of practical agriculture in the vicinity is numbered Peter H. Iblings, who owns three hundred and twenty acres of fine land on section 26, Monroe township and in its cultivation has followed always the most modern and progressive methods, surrounding himself with an enviable degree of prosperity. He was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, February 14, 1876, and is a son of Ibling Iblings, who was born in Germany in 1842 and who came to America about the year 1856. The father settled in Butler county, Iowa, in 1886 and engaged in farming in this locality until his death which occurred in 1907. His wife, who was in her maidenhood Miss Anna Whilhelms, was born in Germany in 1846 and died in Butler county in 1911. They had ten children: John, Christopher, Katie, William, Claus A., Peter H., Henry, Emma, Herman and Anna.

Peter H. Iblings attended district school until he was eighteen years of age and then spent two years in Ames Agricultural College. He afterward worked upon his father's farm until he was twenty-two years of age and then rented land for two years. At the end of that time he bought two hundred and forty acres in Allen township, a tract which he sold at the end of three years, purchasing the farm upon which he now resides. He owns three hundred and twenty acres on section 26, Monroe township and

harvests every year abundant crops of hay, corn, oats and rye, which he sells in the local market. He has also important stock-raising interests, keeping seventy head of pure-bred, registered, polled Angus cattle, one hundred and fifty hogs and fourteen horses. Mr. Iblings makes it his aim to keep abreast of the modern advancement in the science of agriculture and is a constant reader of the best farm journals. In consequence of his practical ideas and unremitting efforts his farm is one of the finest in the township and he himself is numbered among the representative and able agriculturists.

At Clara City, Minnesota, on the 21st of June, 1906, Mr. Iblings married Miss Jessie Voss, a daughter of Tonious Voss, a farmer living in Austinville, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Iblings have two children; Herman and James.

Mr. Iblings is a stockholder in the Farmer's Cooperative Elevator Company at Charles City, Iowa. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is a member of the Baptist church. He has been very successful in the conduct of his farming interests, his success rewarding unremitting industry and practical labor.

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### GERT DE BOWER.

Many of the sterling traits of the German race find manifestation in Gert De Bower, an enterprising farmer, whose realization of the fact that success is the outcome of industry, determination and perseverance has enabled him to win a place, by the exercise of these qualities, among the substantial farmers of Jefferson township. He lives on section 8 and has a well developed farm.

He was born in East Friesland, Germany, August 4, 1864, and is a son of Harry and Isabel (Sucher) De Bower, who in the year 1872 became residents of Dane county, Wisconsin. The father, however, was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, his death occurring two or three months after his arrival. The family resided there for about two years and then removed to Lodi, Columbia county, Wisconsin, where they made their home until coming to Iowa about a quarter of a century ago. Here the mother passed away in 1891. The family was brought to the United States by two uncles, Gert and Sim De Bower. They

were in very straightened financial circumstances when they arrived, and the uncles furnished a little home for them to live in the first year. All of the boys began to work and all remained at home until they married and made homes for themselves. All now own good places, and most of their success has been won in Butler county. In Wisconsin they cultivated a rented farm but after coming to Iowa purchased property and thus gradually worked their way upward until they gained a place among the substantial residents of the county. In the family were six children: Ed and Paul, who are resident farmers of West Point township; Mrs. Tina Fraese, now deceased; Dora, the wife of Louis Hummel, of West Point township; Gert of Jefferson township; and Herman, who is living in Jackson township.

Gert De Bower was a little lad of but eight summers when he accompanied his parents on the voyage across the Atlantic. His youth was a period of earnest and unremitting toil because of the financial condition of the family, which made it necessary that he begin work at an early age. The habits of industry and determination, which he then developed, have clung to him through life and have constituted the foundation upon which his success has been built. From early youth he has worked in the fields and has at length gained the legitimate reward of his labors, being now the owner of a valuable farm of four hundred acres on section 8, Jefferson township, on which are two sets of farm buildings. His first purchase was one hundred and sixty acres, but he afterward bought the Baldwin farm adjoining, comprising two hundred and forty acres. He purchased the entire tract and is known as a most successful general farmer and stock-raiser. His fields produce excellent crops of corn, wheat and other cereals and in his pastures are seen high grades of stock. The work of improvement has been carried forward along progressive lines, and that he is a wide-awake, alert and energetic business man is furthermore shown in the fact that he is a director of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company of Allison, a director of the Farmers Cooperative Butter factory of Allison, a director of the Farmers Cooperative Telephone Company of Jefferson township and a director of the Butler County Fair Association. He takes an active interest in the last mentioned, believing in anything that will stimulate activity and promote the standards of farming in this part of the state.

In 1890 Mr. De Bower was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Hummel, who was born in Arlington, Columbia county, Wis-

consin, June 12, 1867, and is a daughter of Frank Hummel, who was born on the ocean while his parents were coming to America. The mother of Mrs. De Bower was a native of Germany, and both Mr. and Mrs. Hummel were residents of Wisconsin until called to their final rest. Unto Mr. and Mrs. De Bower have been born ten children: Emma, who is the wife of Otto Ernest, of Schuyler, Nebraska, and has one child, Pearl; George, who is living with his sister Emma; and Elsie, Lawrence, Frank, Clarence, Elmer, Roy, Vernie and Alvin, all at home. All of the children were born in this county.

The family are members of the German Lutheran church, and Mr. De Bower gives his political indorsement to the republican party. He belongs to the progressive class of agriculturists, to whom this county owes her progress, upbuilding and improvement. He has indeed won the proud American title of self-made man. In America labor is king. The man who is willing to work and whose efforts are directed by intelligence can always win advancement. It has been in this way that Mr. De Bower has gained his present creditable position as one of the substantial residents of Butler county.

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### JAMES WARREN HICKLE.

James Warren Hickle owns and cultivates an excellent farm of one hundred and fifty acres, situated on sections 28 and 29, Butler township. He is a native of the neighboring state of Illinois, his birth having occurred in McLean county, near Bloomington, on the 2d of December, 1854. His parents were John and Hester (Van Gundy) Hickle, natives of Ohio, where they were reared and married. They later removed to Illinois, where they remained for ten years and in 1856 they came to Butler county, settling upon the farm which is now the home of their son, James W. Here the father carried on general agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred December 16, 1894, when he was eighty-two years of age, for he was born on the 24th of August, 1812. His wife, who was born July 7, 1820, was almost a nonagenarian at the time of her demise, on the 20th of June, 1910. In politics Mr. Hickle was a stalwart republican and held a number of local offices, the duties of which he discharged with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. He belonged

to the Masonic lodge for thirty-six years, having become a charter member of the lodge at Clarksville. He was ever public-spirited and progressive in all of his relations to the community, promoted many projects for the public benefit and donated from his farm a tract of land for the Lowell cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. John Hickle were born the following children: Jacob H., now living in Clarksville; William, also a resident of that place; Alfred, a farmer of Jackson township; David, who died in 1909; James W.; Eliza, who lives with a brother; Charles, a resident of Butler township; and three who died in childhood.

James Warren Hickle was but two years of age when brought by his parents to Butler county. At that time he came to the old homestead farm and has hereon since resided. He owns one hundred and fifty acres of land pleasantly and conveniently located on sections 28 and 29, Butler township, not far from Clarksville. All the improvements have been made by the family, and the farm is now an excellent property, the land being divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences, while substantial barns and outbuildings offer shelter for grain and stock. The latest improved machinery also facilitates the work of the fields and indicates the careful supervision of the owner. Mr. Hickle has always voted with the republican party and believes firmly in its principles.

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### JOHN P. ARENDS.

One of the active and progressive young business men of Aplington is John P. Arends, who since 1909 has conducted a large hardware, heating, lighting and plumbing establishment in the town. His birth occurred here November 13, 1884, his parents being John P. and Grace (Iben) Arends, both born in Germany in 1853. The father was the first hardware merchant in Aplington and was connected with that line of business here until his death in 1902. His wife survives him and still makes her home in Aplington. They became the parents of six children. The oldest, Arend P., is a salesman with headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. He married Miss Minna Fink and they have become the parents of a daughter, Maurine. Gertrude lives at home; John P. is the subject of this review; Robert is also at home; and Henry was taken in as a partner with his brother,

John P., in the hardware business in Aplington, in February, 1913. The youngest member of the family, Florence, lives at home. John P. Arends was graduated from the Aplington high school in 1899 and took a course in the Waterloo business college, from 1900 to 1902. At the time of his father's death, in February, 1902, he was called upon to work in his father's hardware store, assisting his older brother, Arend P., in conducting the business until May, 1903, when the estate was settled. In December, 1903, he moved to Marshalltown, Iowa, but in 1909 returned to Aplington and established himself in business, opening a hardware, heating, lighting and plumbing concern. He has met with a gratifying degree of success and has now a large patronage accorded to him in recognition of his honorable and upright methods and his reasonable prices.

In Marshalltown, Iowa, on the 16th of May, 1905, Mr. Arends was united in marriage to Miss Bessie L. Hauser, a daughter of David Hauser, a retired farmer living in Union. Mr. and Mrs. Arends have four children: David R., Roger, John P., Jr.; and a son, born January 15, 1914, and not named at this writing.

Mr. Arends is independent in his political views. He is a young man of energy, resource and capability, and he will undoubtedly be carried forward into still more important relations with business interests of the community.

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### PAUL J. GERDES.

The Evergreen Home Stock Farm, comprising three hundred and twenty acres of the finest land in Butler county, is the property of Paul J. Gerdes, and its excellent condition and modern equipment testifies to his progressive and practical agricultural methods and to the care and supervision which he bestows upon his property. He was born in Peoria county, Illinois, March 26, 1866, a son of George P. Gerdes, a native of Germany, who emigrated to America and located near Peoria, Illinois, where he worked in the coal mines for about thirteen years. In 1881 he moved to Iowa, settling on a farm in Carroll county, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying there in 1909. His wife survives him.

Paul J. Gerdes came to Iowa with his parents when he was about sixteen years of age and remained with his father on the



PAUL J. GERDES AND FAMILY





farm until he reached manhood. He afterward worked as a farm laborer for four years and after his marriage, which occurred in 1891, he rented land in Butler county for five years and then purchased his father's property of one hundred and forty-five acres. At the end of six years he sold this and moved to Butler county, buying the farm whereon he now resides. He owns three hundred and twenty acres of well improved land on sections 17 and 18, Madison township, and upon this he has made excellent improvements, setting out a grove of evergreen and forest trees and providing his place with substantial buildings, including a scale house, a granary, corn cribs, a milk house and a garage. His place is known as the Evergreen Home Stock Farm and upon it he raises horses and a good grade of shorthorn cattle and Duroc Jersey crossed with Poland China hogs. He is a stockholder in the Butler County Telephone Company and in the Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company of Dumont. In addition to his home farm he owns eighty acres in Franklin county, and this place is also well improved and highly developed.

On the 13th of March, 1891, in Butler county, Mr. Gerdes married Miss Hattie Betten, a native of Germany, who came to America when she was eight years of age and was reared in Carroll county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Gerdes became the parents of five children: Hilda, the wife of Albert Lowling; Dirk P., who is aiding in the operation of the homestead; George H.; and two children who died in infancy. The parents are members of the German Reformed church, and Mr. Gerdes gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is one of the progressive and representative business men of Madison township and in attaining the enviable degree of success which he today enjoys has contributed in substantial measure to community growth and development.

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### ROBERT G. WOLFENSPPERGER.

Agricultural interests of Beaver township find a progressive and worthy representative in Robert G. Wolfensperger, engaged in general farming, dairying and stock-raising upon one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 32. He was born in New Hartford, Iowa, April 2, 1885, a son of Newton and Emma (Packard)

Wolfensperger, the former born in Morgansville, Maryland, in November, 1861, and the latter in Grant county, Wisconsin, in 1868. The father came to Iowa about the year 1879 and his marriage occurred in Waterloo about 1884. He was connected with agricultural interests in that locality for a number of years thereafter and is now living retired in New Hartford. He and his wife have four children, Robert G., Lola G., Orrin E. and Orphia A. Members of this family have been in America for many generations. Mr. Wolfensperger's maternal grandfather, Robert Packard, was a mail carrier between Dubuque and Chicago in pioneer times and was several times shot by highwaymen while discharging his duties.

Robert G. Wolfensperger acquired his education in the public schools of New Hartford and was graduated from the high school at the age of eighteen. He afterward worked on the farm with his father until 1907 and then entered the restaurant business in New Hartford, continuing in this for two years. In 1911 he rented his father's farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 32, Beaver township, and upon this property has since resided. He raises grain and hay, all of which he feeds to his stock, raising an average of fifty-five head of cattle, one hundred hogs and twelve horses every year. He ships to outside markets, but the products of his large and profitable dairy are all sold in the local market. Mr. Wolfensperger has met with a notable degree of success in the conduct of his farming interests and is recognized as one of the most able agriculturists in the county. He owns a half interest in one hundred and sixty acres in Mower county, Minnesota, and is a stockholder in the New Hartford Creamery Company and the Packard Power & Mining Company, of Gypsum, Colorado.

In New Hartford, on the 1st of September, 1909, Mr. Wolfensperger married Miss Myra Morton, a daughter of John and Emma (Cumming) Morton, the former a retired farmer living in New Hartford. He was born in Hadley, Massachusetts, in 1835 and came to Iowa in 1858. In 1861 he enlisted in the Fifteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and served during the entire course of the Civil war. His wife was born in Ohio in 1850 and died in 1909. They had five children: Nina A., who has passed away; Anna S.; Ida I.; Charles A.; and Myra, the wife of the subject of this review. Mr. and Mrs. Wolfensperger have become the parents of two sons: Wendell E. and Harland Morton, born December 7, 1913.

Mr. Wolfensperger is a member of the Baptist church. He is independent in his political beliefs and is connected fraternally with the Modern Woodmen in America. He is a young man of energy, resource and capacity and will undoubtedly be carried forward into still more important relations with the agricultural life of the township.

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### HENRY E. DAY, M. D.

Dr. Henry E. Day, who for the past fifteen years has practiced medicine and surgery in Dumont, was born in Somersetshire, England, July 21, 1868, a son of John and Sylvia Day, also natives of England. The father engaged in farming in Somersetshire until his death and afterward the mother and her children came to America, locating at Auburn, New York, where she still resides. She had two sons: Dr. Henry E., of this review; and Dr. W. E., a well known physician of Clarksville, Iowa.

Dr. Henry E. Day remained in England until he was seventeen years of age and acquired his primary education there. He crossed the Atlantic to America in 1884 and came direct to Iowa, locating first in Franklin county, where for a time he worked on a farm during the summer months, attending school during the winter. He afterward removed to Bristow, where he pursued his education, still spending his vacations working as a farm laborer. Having determined to study medicine, he entered the office of Dr. Hobson, of Bristow, later taking a course of lectures in the medical department of Iowa State University and graduating with the degree of M. D. in 1897. During his university course he remained with Dr. Hobson, studying under him and assisting him when not attending lectures. After his graduation he formed a partnership with Dr. Appleby and began the practice of his profession at Bristow, continuing there until his removal to Allison. About 1898 he came to Dumont, where he has since resided. He is recognized as a man of superior professional attainments, well versed in the underlying principles of medicine and in touch with the most advanced medical thought. His practice has increased yearly in volume and importance and its proportions now place him among the most successful physicians and surgeons in his part of the county. Dr. Day is a member of the Butler County and the Iowa State Medical Societies and also

of the Austin Flint Medical Association. He has been president of the county society and is well known in the affairs of all of these organizations. In addition to his professional practice he is local surgeon for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company and medical examiner for a number of life insurance companies.

On the 29th of December, 1907, in Hampton, Iowa, Dr. Day was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Coryell, a native of Iowa and a daughter of C. H. Coryell, one of the early settlers in Hampton. Dr. and Mrs. Day have three children, Mina E., Donovan H. and Clifford C.

Dr. Day was reared in the Episcopal church but he and his wife and family now attend the Methodist Episcopal church of Dumont. Fraternally Dr. Day is a Master Mason and is connected with the Allison blue lodge. He is also affiliated with the Knights of Pythias. He has been for fifteen years in active practice in Dumont and by his labors and high professional attainments has gained an enviable position in the regard of the public and in the ranks of the medical fraternity of Butler county.

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### CHARLES H. HUNT.

A farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 33, Butler township, pays tribute to Charles H. Hunt, who resided thereon for a number of years before he came to Clarksville, where he is now engaged in the fire insurance business. He was born in Butler township, August 7, 1866, a son of Heman and Sarah (Husband) Hunt. He was the youngest of three sons and has been a lifelong resident of the township in which he still makes his home. The district schools afforded him his educational opportunities, and in his youth his time was divided between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playgrounds and the work of the fields. He early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil, and after he had attained his majority he began farming on his own account. He was thus engaged until 1909, and his quarter section of land was converted into rich and productive fields, while many substantial improvements were added to the farm and stand as monuments to his thrift and industry. For one year in early manhood he also engaged in teaching school and later worked in a bank at Shell Rock for nearly six years, or from

the 15th of May, 1888, until the 20th of August, 1893. It was subsequent to that date that he purchased his present farm, which he continued to cultivate until he established his home in Clarks-ville, where he is now engaged in the fire insurance business. He has secured a liberal patronage, and the policies which he writes amount to a large figure annually.

On the 2d of December, 1896, Mr. Hunt was married to Miss Margaret M. Leeper, who was born near Heyworth, Illinois, and resided there until her marriage. Mr. Hunt belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and gives his political support to the republican party, believing that the principles of its platform are most conducive to good government. The fact that many of his stanchest friends are those who have known him from his boy-hood to the present time is an indication that his has been an active, well spent and honorable life.

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### ROBERT HUNTER.

Robert Hunter, carrying on general farming on section 4, Shell Rock township, his place being well improved according to modern methods of agriculture, was born in New York city, in March, 1850, a son of Samuel and Sarah (McBride) Hunter, both of whom were natives of Ireland. They came to the United States with two sons about 1850 and settled in New York city, where the father's death resulted from sunstroke when Robert Hunter was about two years of age. The mother afterward went to Belmont, Ohio, to live with an uncle and there passed away when her son, Robert, was about eight years of age. The family numbered four children: John S., living in Ohio; Samuel of Philadelphia; Robert; and Sarah, the wife of L. W. Howard of Shell Rock township.

Following the mother's death the family was scattered, Robert Hunter remaining with the uncle until his death and afterward living with the uncle's eldest son until he, Robert, had reached the age of twenty-two years. At that time he removed to Hamilton county, Iowa, but five years later came to Butler county and has since resided on his present farm comprising one hundred and twenty acres on section 4, Shell Rock township. He paid twenty-five dollars per acre for this property, which is today worth one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. He carries on general farming

and stock-raising, and the fields yield him golden harvests, while his annual income derived from his stock is also a gratifying one.

In 1882 Mr. Hunter was united in marriage to Miss Parintha A. Robins, who died in Shell Rock township in 1891. The children of that marriage were: Naomi, a school teacher of the county; Clifton, a farmer of Shell Rock township; Ethel, who died at the age of two years; Bertha, at home; and Laura, who died at the age of three years. For his second wife Mr. Hunter chose Miss Minerva Oberdorf, whom he wedded in 1896, and they have a daughter, Ruth. Mr. Hunter has long been a resident of this county and has witnessed much of its development and improvement, always taking an active part in measures for the general good. He is also interested in the moral progress of the community and is a consistent member of the Baptist church of Shell Rock.

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#### HENRY WILSON.

Henry Wilson derives a gratifying and substantial income from his farm of two hundred and forty acres on sections 19 and 20, Jefferson township. His property is well improved, his home being situated on section 20, and the land is today worth one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, owing to the excellent care he has given it and his practical, systematic and scientific methods of development. Illinois numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in McHenry county, June 1, 1862. He is a son of John M. and Dora (Coster) Wilson, who were natives of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany. They were married about 1860 in McHenry county, Illinois, Mr. Wilson having for seven years resided in this country, while his wife had but recently arrived at the time of her marriage. In 1869 they removed to this county, taking up their abode in Jefferson township. He always made farming his life work and became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land. In addition to tilling the fields he raised considerable stock and milked many cows. For five years he had from five hundred to seven hundred head of cattle, which were herded over the prairie, and he milked as high as forty cows, being assisted in the work by his sons, the boys being thus kept busy. Removing to Dumont, he there established a creamery and a general merchandise business, which he conducted

for eight years. He was recognized as a man of sterling qualities, and his word was always regarded as good as his bond. He was an enterprising business man, a hard worker, persistent, determined and progressive, and as the years went by he achieved a success that was well merited. His educational opportunities were extremely limited. He could not read nor write, and yet no one could surpass him at figuring in his head and the result was always accurate. He possessed strong native intelligence and throughout his entire life learned continuously in the school of experience. In politics he was a staunch republican, believing firmly in the principles of the party. He was also an active and faithful member of the German Evangelical church, taking a most helpful part in its work and was the builder of the house of worship for that denomination at Dumont. To him and his wife were born six sons: Henry; John and Harvey, who are residents of Jefferson township; Christ, living in Dumont; Charley, also of Dumont; and William, of Dougherty.

Henry Wilson was only about seven years of age when the family came to this county, and here he has since made his home. The public schools afforded him his educational opportunities, and his business training was received under the direction of his father. During the eight years in which the family resided at Dumont he assisted his father in conducting the creamery business and the store, and for thirteen years altogether he was engaged in the manufacture of butter. With the exception of the period spent in Dumont he has always been a resident of Jefferson township. He has made most of the improvements upon his tract of two hundred and forty acres, which he purchased ten years ago of Samuel Williams, one of the pioneer settlers of the county, who entered the land from the government. Mr. Wilson paid fifty dollars per acre for this property, and it is today worth one hundred and fifty dollars, owing to the improvements which he has placed upon it and the high state of cultivation to which he has developed the fields. He makes live stock the principal feature of his farm, keeps high grades of horses, cattle and hogs and milks from eighteen to twenty-five head of cows, his dairy products finding a ready sale. Mr. Wilson is also a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company of Allison and is secretary and treasurer of the Central Jefferson Telephone Company. He is an alert, energetic business man with keen sagacity and sound judgment, and these qualities have been the salient forces in bringing him the success he now enjoys.



Mr. Wilson is pleasantly situated in his home life. He was married July 26, 1883, to Miss Mary Renning, who was born in McHenry county, Illinois, October 8, 1863, and came to Butler county in 1864 with her parents, Charles and Christina (Linnenbeck) Renning, who were natives of Germany and were married there. Arriving in the new world, they settled in Illinois and thence came to Iowa, where the father died in December, 1907, at the age of seventy-three years, while the mother now makes her home in Jefferson township with her son Charles. Mr. and Mrs. Renning had five children, all of whom are residents of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson also have five children: Frank E., at home; Lottie M., the wife of Tracy Scott, of Clarksville; Fred and Forrest, at home; and Nellie, the wife of Ray Scott, of Jefferson township.

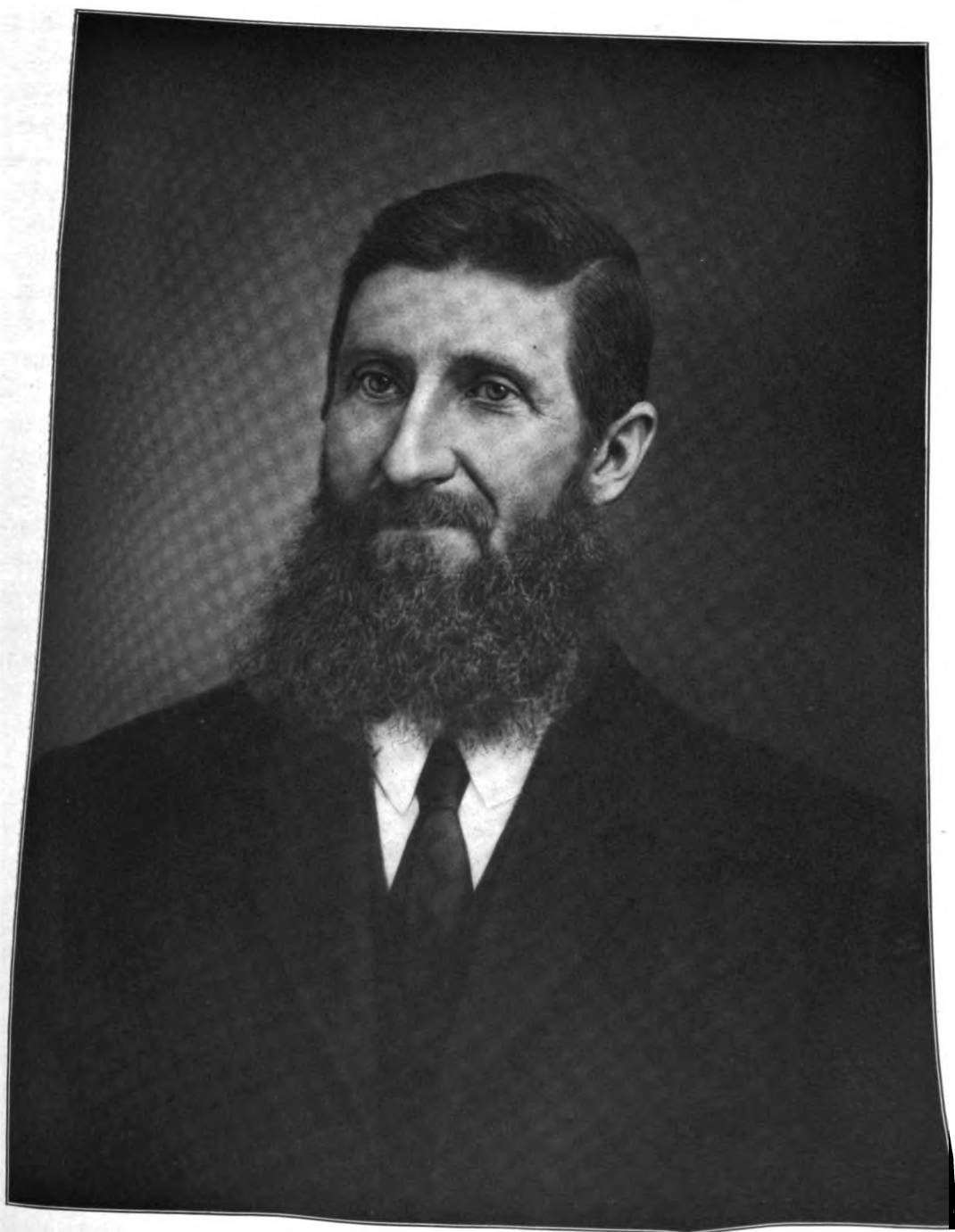
Mr. Wilson has held some school and road offices and has been township trustee. He is an earnest republican in his political views, supporting the principles of the party from the time he attained his majority. He is a Yeoman, and he belongs to the Evangelical church. These associations indicate much of the nature of the principles which govern his life, constituting him a man of sterling worth. He regards the attainment of success as but one feature of life and is ever ready and willing to perform his duties of citizenship and to meet his obligations to his fellow-men.

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### JOHN HOWE.

During the long years of his residence in Butler county John Howe was closely associated with farming interests until a few years prior to his death, when he removed to Shell Rock, there spending his remaining days. He was in the seventy-eighth year of his age when he passed away, his birth having occurred in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 1, 1832. His parents were James and Margaret Howe. The father died when our subject was a small boy and the mother passed away in 1866.

Mr. Howe remained a resident of his native state throughout the period of his boyhood and youth and in 1855, when about twenty-three years of age, removed to Ohio. He did not tarry long in that state, however, but continued on his westward way to Muscatine, Iowa, from which point he walked to Shell Rock. He



JOHN HOWE



entered a tract of land in Butler township, this county, and then returned to Ohio, but in 1859 again came to Butler county, where he made permanent settlement. Not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made upon his land when it came into his possession. With characteristic energy he began to develop it and the remainder of his active life was devoted to farming. He brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and as the years passed on he gathered good harvests as a reward for his labors. He then retired to Shell Rock, where his remaining days were passed. He was the owner of two hundred and forty acres while actively engaged in farming, but shortly prior to his retirement he sold one hundred and sixty acres and afterward disposed of the remainder. He came to this county a poor man and as the years passed he made steady progress along the path of success.

In February, 1882, Mr. Howe was united in marriage to Miss Harriett Smith, who was born in Indiana, January 6, 1853. She was left an orphan in early age and in 1872 came to this county to live with a sister, Mrs. Mary Ann Williams, who is now deceased. The death of Mr. Howe occurred March 7, 1910, and was the occasion of deep regret to many friends. He held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, to which Mrs. Howe still belongs, and he was also a member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Shell Rock. In politics he was a republican but did not seek nor desire office, preferring to live a quiet home life.

He lost his father when a small boy and from an early age was dependent upon his own resources, becoming a self-made man in the truest and best sense of the term. While he won success, it was never at the price of another's failure. In all of his business career he followed constructive methods and his industry and integrity were the salient forces that gained for him his prosperity.

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### JACOB KINGERY.

Jacob Kingery, a representative and valued citizen of Butler county, familiarly known as "Jake" to his many friends, was born in Bennezette township, March 25, 1862. He is a son of William and Mary M. (Etter) Kingery, the former a native of Pennsylvania and a pioneer in Iowa. More extended mention of his career may be found elsewhere in this work.

Jacob Kingery was reared on the home farm in Coldwater township, acquiring his education in the district schools. He remained with his father until he was twenty-two years of age and then worked out on a neighboring farm as a monthly laborer. He later rented land which he farmed for six years, after which he purchased an eighty acre tract, a portion of the farm upon which he now resides. When this land came into his possession only a portion of the soil was broken and there was an old house upon it. With characteristic energy Mr. Kingery cleared more land, fenced the property into convenient fields, set out a grove of forest and evergreen trees, built a new house and erected a number of other substantial buildings. He afterward added to his holdings an adjoining tract of sixty-five acres on section 8, across from the home farm, and later bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres on section 6 and upon this farm has just built a new house, a corn crib and a number of outbuildings. He has fenced and cross fenced the fields and set out an orchard forming a windbreak north and west of the buildings on the home farm. He has also tiled all of his land, greatly increasing its value thereby. In addition to the operation of these farms Mr. Kingery has other important business interests, being a stockholder in the Greene Cooperative Creamery Association and in the Farmers Elevator Company.

On the 30th of March, 1884, in Coldwater township, Mr. Kingery married Miss Eva A. Burkholder, a native of Virginia and a daughter of Henry Burkholder, who moved from that state to Butler county, when Mrs. Kingery was still a child. Mr. and Mrs. Kingery became the parents of ten children. Lewis H. is a farmer in Floyd county. He is married and has two children. Frank C. is operating his father's one hundred and sixty acre farm on section 6. He is married and has one son. The other members of this family are: Mary; Gertrude, the wife of Leland Ray, of Butler county; Katie; Anna; Albert; Beulah; Delmar; and one child, Raymond, who died at the age of seven months.

Mr. and Mrs. Kingery are members of the Church of the Brethren of Greene, and Mr. Kingery has been a deacon for many years. He is active in church and Sunday-school work, having served as superintendent of the Sabbath school and also as assistant. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is now serving his third term as township trustee, having been first appointed to this office to fill a vacancy. He has also been identified with school affairs for a number of years. His record

shows conclusively what may be accomplished by perseverance and industry, for he started out in life with comparatively no resources and as a result of his hard work and good management is now the owner of two valuable farms. The spirit of progress actuates him in all that he does, and he keeps continuously abreast of the trend of the times, a fact indicated in his recent purchase of a new 1912 model Oakland touring car. He is known as a man of exemplary character and high principles and holds the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens.

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### GEORGE A. HAHN.

Various business and public interests have profited by the cooperation, enterprise and sound judgment of George A. Hahn, one of the enterprising farmers of Ripley township, living on section 5. He is a native of this county, his birth having occurred in Jefferson township, March 28, 1866, his parents being Fred and Mary (Yarcho) Hahn, both of whom were natives of Germany, the former of Saxony and the latter of Mecklenburg. When young people they crossed the Atlantic and became residents of Harvard, Illinois, where they were married. About 1863 they removed to Butler county, Iowa, settling in Jefferson township, where the wife and mother passed away on the 19th of December, 1885. The father afterward married again and removed to Muscatine county, Iowa, where he died January 8, 1900, at the age of seventy-two years. Throughout his entire life he was a farmer, and although he came to the United States empty-handed, he won success as the years went on and became prosperous. He had six children, all born of the first marriage: Augustus, now living in Allison; Mary, the wife of Louis Yarcho, of Waterloo, Iowa; Charles, who followed farming near Shell Rock and died March 19, 1908; George A.; Ernest, of Jackson township; and Amelia, who died at the age of two years.

George A. Hahn has spent his entire life in this county where he has followed farming and carpentering. He made his home in Jefferson township until he came to his present farm in Ripley township in 1900. He began here with one hundred and sixty acres of land but now has two hundred and forty acres, constituting an excellent farm, upon which he has placed most of the improvements, doing all the carpenter work himself. The

farm presents a neat and thrifty appearance and, in fact, constitutes one of the attractive features of the landscape. He raises high-grade stock of all kinds and in addition to his farm interests is president of the Fairview Telephone Company and a stockholder in the Cooperative Creamery Company.

On the 6th of May, 1891, Mr. Hahn was united in marriage to Miss Anna Reisewitz, who was born in Berlin, Germany, March 4, 1873, and in 1883 went to Holland, Grundy county, Iowa, with her parents, Joseph and Paulina (Fritche) Reisewitz. Her father was a truck gardener and died in Cedar Falls in March, 1912, at the age of seventy-five years, and the mother still resides there. The family remained at Holland only a few weeks and then went to Cedar Falls, where Mrs. Hahn lived to the time of her marriage. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Hahn, namely: Ray, born March 22, 1892; Fred, born September 22, 1894; Rachel, whose birth occurred February 21, 1896; Mary, born October 14, 1900; Clara, born September 6, 1902; George, whose birth occurred June 7, 1905; Lee, born December 19, 1906; and John, born September 26, 1908. Of these all are living, except Fred, who died at the age of six years and George, who died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Hahn is a republican and served as township trustee for six years. He has also been president of the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart friend. In fact, he takes an active and helpful interest in all that pertains to the welfare and progress of the community and is a most loyal and progressive citizen. As a native son, he has long witnessed the development and progress of the county, and he has a wide acquaintance in this section of the state, where his friends are many.

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### JOHN LEEPER.

John Leeper is living retired in Clarksville but for thirty years was busily engaged in the development and cultivation of a farm of four hundred acres, which he owns in Jackson township. He ranked with the leading and representative agriculturists of the community and has made an excellent business record, his history proving conclusively what may be accomplished when one has the will to dare and to do. He was born in McLean county, Illi-

nois, December 19, 1856, and is a son of Charles and Isabel (Oliver) Leeper, who were natives of Kentucky and Ireland respectively. They went to Illinois with their parents in early childhood and were married in that state. The father died upon the old homestead in McLean county in October, 1906, at the advanced age of eighty-four years, and the mother is still living there. They had a family of eight children, seven of whom yet survive, William, the sixth in order of birth, having died when about ten years of age. The others are: Thomas, who is living with his mother, at Heyworth, Illinois; John, the second in order of birth; Mary, the wife of J. B. Buck, also of Heyworth; Margaret, the wife of C. H. Hunt, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Charles O., whose home is in Heyworth; A. J., a resident farmer of DeWitt county, Illinois; and Elizabeth Jane, who is with her mother.

John Leeper acquired his early education in the public schools of his native county and afterward spent three years as a student in the Wesleyan University at Bloomington, completing the academic course by graduation. In 1881 he became identified with Butler county, where he entered the live-stock business and also engaged actively in farming. This was not his first trip to Iowa, for he had spent the summer of 1877 here before he entered the university, his father owning a half section of land, which John Leeper cared for through that summer. In 1881, however, he started in business independently and gradually worked his way upward. To his original possessions he added until within the boundaries of his farm are comprised four hundred acres. His place is situated on section 35, Jackson township, and he conducted it successfully until the spring of 1911, when, satisfied with his possessions, he put aside further business cares to live retired in Clarksville, giving his attention now merely to the supervision of his invested interests. His success did not come to him without effort; in fact, he has lived the life of a most energetic and persistent business man and it has been through the capable control of his farming and live-stock interests that he has won the prosperity which he now enjoys.

In 1883 Mr. Leeper was united in marriage to Miss Margaret A. Tilford, who was born in Benton county, Iowa, June 13, 1864, and arrived in Butler county in the spring of 1881. Her parents were John and Mahala (Harper) Tilford, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Iowa. The mother died at Vinton, while the father passed away in Clarksville. Mr. and Mrs. Leeper have become the parents of four children. Charles Young, who



operates the home farm, married Edith Bohner and has one son, Donald. John St. Clair, living in Waterloo, wedded Mabel Smith. Le Roy, also of Waterloo, wedded Maude Walz. Mahala completes the family. J. S. and L. R. are attorneys in Waterloo and were graduated from the liberal arts course at Iowa City and from the law department of the State University. They are now practicing under the firm style of Leeper & Leeper. All of the sons are graduates of the high school at Clarksville and the eldest son, Charles, spent two years in the mechanical engineering department of the State University.

In his political views Mr. Leeper is a democrat, well informed on the questions and issues of the day. For four years he served as assessor of Jackson township and was twice the democratic nominee for county clerk. He has served as county committeeman and does all in his power to further the interests of the party, in the principles of which he firmly believes. Working his way **steadily upward**, he has made good use of his time, talent and opportunities, and his even paced energy has carried him into important relations.

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#### HERMAN JOHNSON.

Herman Johnson, a highly respected and enterprising farmer of West Point township, living on section 13, was born in Ost Friesland, Hanover, Germany, February 16, 1853. His parents were John and Grace (Hagemeyer) Johnson, also natives of Hanover. Their last days, however, were spent on this side of the water, the father passing away in Ogle county, Illinois, in 1880, when fifty-six years of age, while his wife died at the home of her son, Herman, December 26, 1890, at the age of sixty-five years. Their family numbered six children: Herman; Jennie, the deceased wife of Charles Rolfs; A. W., mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Frank H., whose home is in Terril, Iowa; Henry, living in Minnesota; and John A., of Lake Park, Dickinson county, Iowa.

Herman Johnson spent the first eighteen years of his life in his native land and attended school until fifteen years of age, after which time he worked as a laborer in Germany until he came to the United States in 1871. Making his way into the interior of the country he settled at Rochelle, Illinois, and sought immediate

employment, for he brought no capital with him. He worked as a farm hand for four years and during that period sent back such favorable reports concerning America, its conditions and its opportunities, that his father and the family came in 1873. Herman Johnson began farming in connection with his father in Ogle county, Illinois, in 1876, the business association being maintained for four years. In 1880, however, Herman Johnson was married and began farming on his own account, following agricultural pursuits in Ogle county through the succeeding decade. He arrived in Iowa in 1890 and purchased his present farm of two hundred acres, for which he paid thirty dollars per acre. He immediately began its development and has placed upon it all of its present improvements which include fine buildings—a commodious and attractive modern home and substantial barns. A good grove had been set out and an orchard had been planted by I. M. Fisher, the former owner. He makes a specialty of stock raising, feeds all of the grain which he raises and also buys some.

The place is called the Ash Lane Farm, its name being taken from the fact that there is a lane leading to the house bordered on each side by a row of fine ash trees. There is also an evergreen growth surrounding the home and upon the place are fruit trees of all kinds for the family use. The farm is now splendidly equipped with all modern conveniences and accessories and progressive methods are followed by Mr. Johnson in raising and handling stock, so that his labors are crowned with a very gratifying measure of success.

In 1880 Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Kate Rippentrop, who was born in Hanover, Germany, near the birthplace of her husband, on the 25th of February, 1860, and in 1864 was taken to Illinois by her parents, John and Minnie (Dutcher) Rippentrop, who now reside north of Rochelle, Illinois. They are a most venerable couple, the father having reached the age of ninety-three while the mother is eighty-six years of age. Although now so far advanced in years, they live alone on the old homestead on which they first located in 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have three children: George H., of Portland, Oregon; Minnie Grace, also living in that city; and Genevieve, at home.

In his political views Mr. Johnson was a stalwart republican for many years and is now identified with the progressive party. He never fears to announce and support his honest convictions and seeks ever the welfare of the community. He has served as township trustee and also in road and school offices. He belongs

to the Masonic fraternity, exemplifying in his life its teachings concerning mutual helpfulness and brotherly kindness. He is also a consistent member of the Congregational church. Whatever success he has achieved is attributable entirely to his own efforts. He reached Chicago on the Sunday following the great fire which broke out on the 9th of October, 1871. He made his way into the interior of Illinois and empty-handed started out in life there, possessing no capital save determination and ambition. He has made good use of his time and opportunities and the labors which he has wrought have given him place among the prosperous farmers of West Point township.

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### D. A. MCGREGOR.

D. A. McGregor follows farming on section 2, Jefferson township. It was upon this place that his birth occurred, September 1, 1867, his parents being Duncan and Janette (Stewart) McGregor, both of whom were natives of Perthshire, Scotland. The former was a son of James and Christiana (McCowan) McGregor. The grandmother died in her native land but the grandfather came to America and passed away at the home of a daughter in March, 1865, at the age of sixty-three years. He had four children by his first marriage and two by his second, namely: James, a venerable citizen of Butler county; John, who died in Kentucky; Peter, who died in Australia; Duncan; a daughter who died in childhood; and Christina, who became the wife of Noble Thompson and passed away in this county.

Duncan McGregor was born in Perthshire, Scotland, September, 1836, and remained in his native country through the period of his minority but in 1857 crossed the Atlantic and made his way to Ohio, where he joined his brother, James. There they worked in a sawmill and on a farm. Duncan McGregor afterward worked in Butler county for two years for his brother, receiving payment in a tract of land of eighty acres. After seven years in the United States, he went to New York to meet his intended bride and had to wait for an entire month before the sailing vessel on which she had taken passage arrived. At length, however, the voyage was ended and the young couple met and came on to Dubuque, Iowa, where they were married. This was in 1864. They began their domestic life on the eighty-acre tract of land previously mentioned



**D. A. MCGREGOR AND FAMILY**

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and as his financial resources increased he kept adding to his holdings until he had three hundred and twenty acres on sections 2 and 3, Jefferson township. This farm he still owns and was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits until his wife's death, on the 1st of January, 1906, since which time he has spent the winter months in San Diego, California. He has led the life of an industrious, energetic, hard-working man and well deserves the rest which has come to him. He has ever been a great reader and has kept informed concerning the leading questions, interests and issues of the day.

He has always voted with the republican party, and his religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church. Unto him and his wife were born seven children, of whom five died in 1880 of diphtheria; Margaret at the age of sixteen; Janette at the age of eleven; Jemima, John and Charles. The second of the family, James McGregor, is now living in Oskaloosa, Iowa, while D. A. McGregor, the third of the family yet makes his home here. They were to have a fine dairy of forty cows to milk in order to keep all the children busy and were to ship butter to Boston, this being one of the first dairy enterprises of Butler county, but the children became ill at the time of a diphtheria epidemic and one after another passed away until five graves had been made side by side in the family burial lot.

D. A. McGregor has always resided upon the old homestead farm, save for one year which he spent upon a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 11, Jefferson township, which he owned. He has chased cattle over the prairies when there were no fences here. Looking back to that period it seems that the work of development and improvement had scarcely been begun then, so many have been the changes which have since occurred. Mr. McGregor has improved the farm according to modern methods and he has made a specialty of bee culture, keeping about one hundred colonies. He is the only farmer of his locality who is engaged in feeding cattle. He buys and feeds cattle on quite an extensive scale, and the business adds materially to his income.

In 1901 Mr. McGregor was married to Miss Marion Lindsay, who was born in Scotland, June 1, 1866, and in 1878 went to Burlington, Iowa, with her parents. After residing there for about twenty years she was married. She is a daughter of William and Agnes (Brown) Lindsay. The father died in Burlington in 1903, when seventy-four years of age, and the mother passed away at the home of Mr. and Mrs. McGregor in April, 1910, at the age of

seventy-four years. Mrs. McGregor is a graduate of the high school of Burlington, Iowa, and of the city training school for teachers. She secured a state teacher's certificate and for twelve years was a successful teacher in the Burlington city schools. Mr. McGregor attended the Breckenridge Institute in Decorah, Iowa, and both are greatly interested in education, it being their purpose to provide their children with excellent advantages in that direction. They have three sons: Duncan, William Lindsay and John Stewart.

The name of McGregor has long figured in connection with the history of northern Iowa. The mother of our subject spent many lonely days here when her husband was gone to Cedar Falls, the nearest trading point and the railroad terminal. Settlements were few in those days. It was only here and there that one would come upon a pioneer home as he rode over the almost trackless prairie, but the fertility of the soil naturally won the attention of progressive men, who were willing to brave the privations and hardships of pioneer life in order to enjoy the advantages that could be secured in this rich prairie country. Duncan McGregor was of this class and the work which he instituted has been taken up and carried forward by his son, D. A. McGregor, who is today one of the leading and representative farmers of Jefferson township.

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### HENRY W. COSTER.

The home farm of Henry W. Coster is situated on section 10, Shell Rock township, and comprises eighty acres of rich and productive land adjoining the corporate limits of the town of Shell Rock. The place is well improved with modern equipments and presents a neat and attractive appearance, indicative of the careful supervision of a progressive owner. Mr. Coster is a native of McHenry county, Illinois, born November 10, 1868. The following year he was brought to Butler county by his parents, John and Minnie (Stamer) Coster, in whose family were three children, of whom Henry W., is the eldest. At the arrival of the family in this county they took up their abode upon a farm in Jefferson township, and there Henry W. Coster remained with his parents until 1892, when he was married. He then began farming on his own account about a mile from the old homestead, cultivating that property until 1906, when he sold out and bought

his present farm of eighty acres adjoining Shell Rock. The place is well improved with good buildings, and the fields are carefully tilled according to modern scientific methods of farming. For the past eighteen years he has made a specialty of breeding and raising Poland China hogs, which he exhibits at the local fairs, winning many premiums thereon. In addition to his farming and stock-raising interests he is president of the Hawkeye Telephone Company of Shell Rock.

In 1892 Mr. Coster was united in marriage to Miss Millie B. Echart, who was born in Butler county in 1872, a daughter of Louis and Mary (Frances) Echart. The father was a native of Germany and the mother of England, and they now reside in Shell Rock, Mr. Echart having retired from agricultural pursuits. Mr. and Mrs. Coster have three children: Elma L., Hazel B. and Gretchen M. The eldest daughter is a graduate of the high school of Shell Rock of the class of 1912 and is now teaching in Jefferson township, where she first attended school and where her mother also attended school.

Mr. Coster votes with the republican party, and he served as township clerk for a number of years. He was also chairman of the township central committee for several years and has done all in his power to further the interests of the party and promote its success. He and his wife belong to the Congregational church of Shell Rock, and he holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Yeoman. Industry and determination have been the guiding points of his life, and year after year has found him in advance of the financial position which he previously occupied. He is now in comfortable circumstances, and his careful management argues well for future success.

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#### A. D. SHEPARD.

A. D. Shepard, a highly respected farmer of Butler township, living on section 5, was born in Rutland county, Vermont, December 2, 1852, his parents being Dexter C. and Usula Abigail (Wilder) Shepard. The father was a native of New England and in the opening year of the Civil war enlisted in the Seventh Vermont Volunteer Infantry. Going to the front, he died at New Orleans, while serving under General Butler. While a



resident of the Green Mountain state he engaged in the lumber business, operating a sawmill for many years. He was a representative of one of the old New England families of Scotch descent, and the Wilder family also of Scotch lineage, was founded in New England in colonial days. Mrs. Shepard was born in Rutland county, Vermont, and passed away in Peoria, Illinois, when her son, A. D. Shepard, was but four years of age. She had two children, the younger being Irving G., of Valley county, Nebraska.

Left orphans at a very early age, the two boys went to live with their maternal grandparents upon a farm in Rutland county, Vermont. In 1868 A. D. Shepard arrived in Jackson township, Butler county, Iowa, with a cash capital of twenty-six dollars, which he had saved from his earnings. Here he worked for his uncle, Benjamin Priest, for five years and then returned to Vermont, spending a year and a half in his native state. On the expiration of that period he brought his brother back with him to Iowa, where he gathered a herd of four hundred head of cattle, which he herded on the present site of Allison and in that locality. All through his life he has embraced every opportunity for securing honorable advancement in a business way, and after his marriage he began farming, which he has since followed in Butler and Jackson townships, owning now sixty acres on section 5, Butler township.

It was in December, 1875, that Mr. Shepard married Miss Alice Sill, who was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, June 17, 1857, and resided there until nine years of age, when she was **brought to a farm in this county** by her parents, George and Maria (Busch) Sill, who were natives of the Empire state, but spent their last days in Iowa, dying near Clarksville.

Mr. and Mrs. Shepard became the parents of ten children: George Earl, living in Conrad, Iowa; Ernest Dexter of Marshall county; Winfred Clyde, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Benjamin Howard, a resident farmer of Fremont township; Eber Clarence, whose home is in Bremer county; Isadore Alice, who is in the telephone office at Greene; Edna Gertrude Ivers A., Addie U., and Forrest Eugene, all at home. The son, Benjamin, born in Jackson township, April 15, 1882, began farming on his own account at the age of twenty-one years and now owns seventy-five acres in Dayton township, beside cultivating a rented farm of two hundred acres in Fremont township, where he resides. He was married in 1903 to Anna Ransom, a native

of this county and a daughter of C. M. Ransom of Jackson township. They now have two sons, Lester Albro and Burr Alonzo.

Mr. Shepard is a republican, stalwart in support of the party, and he has held a number of township offices in Butler township. His religious faith is that of the Baptist church. Those who know him esteem him for his sterling worth, for his integrity and his upright life. They recognize in him a self-made man, whose success is attributable entirely to his own labors.

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### AREND ESSMAN.

Among the representative and valued citizens of Madison township is numbered Arend Essman, who dates his residence in Butler county from 1879 and who during the intervening period has been an active factor in the agricultural, business and political life of the community. He was born in Oldenburg, Germany, May 9, 1847, and grew to manhood there, acquiring his education in the public schools. In December, 1865, he emigrated to America and after his arrival in this country went immediately to Illinois, where he joined his brother Frederick, becoming a farm laborer. At the end of five or six years he rented land and engaged in farming there until 1879, when he came west to Iowa, where he also followed agricultural pursuits upon a rented farm. However, before the expiration of one year he purchased two hundred and forty acres upon which was a small house. Most of this land had been broken and Mr. Essman steadily carried forward the work of its further improvement, making it in time one of the valuable and productive farms in the locality. He later purchased more land and is now the owner of another farm of two hundred and twenty-five acres on section 31, Madison township. He has added to and remodeled the house and has now a large, two-story residence, modern and well furnished in every particular. There is almost a village of buildings upon his property, for in addition to his house he has two large barns, a granary, a hog house, a cattle shed and a machine shop. The fields are fenced and cross fenced and he has set out a grove of forest, fruit and evergreen trees, which adds greatly to the appearance and value of the place. In addition to general farming Mr. Essman engages also in raising and feeding cattle and hogs, and his stock-raising interests are extensive and important. He was one

of the promoters of the Butler County Telephone Company and of the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company of Dumont, and he is also a stockholder in the Dumont State Bank.

In Ogle county, Illinois, March 6, 1873, Mr. Essman was united in marriage to Miss Minnie Nolte, a native of Germany, who came to the United States when she was fifteen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Essman have become the parents of four sons: John H., a prominent farmer of Madison township; Henry F., who owns three hundred and twenty acres of land in Noble county, Minnesota; and Fred W. and Herman B., assisting in the operation of the home farm.

Mr. Essman votes the democratic ticket on national issues, but in local affairs supports the men whom he considers best fitted for office. On different occasions he has been elected a trustee of Madison township and served in all sixteen years in this position. He has also been active in educational work, serving as township school treasurer for four years, and he has been a delegate to numerous county conventions and served on the petit jury. He and his family are members of the German Reformed church and are known throughout the township as people of the highest respectability. Throughout the long period of his residence here Mr. Essman has been a valuable factor in promoting community development along many lines, and his individual success places him among the prominent and leading citizens of the community

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#### FARLEN B. MINER.

The year 1866 witnessed the arrival of Farlen B. Miner in this county, where he has resided continuously since, with the exception of a period of six years spent in Nebraska. He owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 21, Shell Rock township, and, although there were no buildings upon the place when he took possession, it is now a well improved property, equipped according to the modern methods of farm development. Mr. Miner was born in Green county, Wisconsin, September 13, 1859, a son of John W. and Rebecca (Dudgeon) Miner, who were natives of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, the former born in 1821 and the latter in 1827. They were married in the Buckeye state and about 1853 removed to Wisconsin, where they resided until

1866. They then came to Butler county, settling in Shell Rock township, where both passed away, the father dying in 1881 at the age of sixty-one years, while the mother's death occurred in 1910, when she was eighty-three years of age. Mr. Miner had devoted his entire life to farming and thus provided a comfortable living for his family. Both he and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and for many years he was one of the church trustees at Shell Rock. The family numbered thirteen children. Thomas, who served through the Civil war as a member of the Thirty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, died in Washington. Richard is living at Greene, Iowa. Charles makes his home at Ravenna, Nebraska, where he has filled the office of postmaster for sixteen years. Beth Ann is the wife of Julius Temple and resides near Greene. John H. is living at Loop Center, Nebraska. James makes his home at Ravenna, Nebraska. Edward A. is a resident of Grand Island, Nebraska. Farlen B. is the next in the family. Emma and O. C. are also of Greene. Sadie is the wife of Walter Curtis, of Waterloo. Marion and Mary were twins. The former died at the age of twenty-one years, and at the time of his death was county recorder of Butler county and was the youngest county officer in the state of Iowa. The latter is the wife of Albert Bonwell of Idaho. The oldest son, Thomas, was wounded at the battle of Resaca and was at the hospital at the time of the close of the war. He was also held as a prisoner in Libby prison for some time.

Farlen B. Miner came with his parents to Butler county in 1866 and has always lived in this locality since that time, save for a period of six years spent in Buffalo county, Nebraska, to which he removed two years after his marriage. He has been a life-long farmer and now owns and cultivates one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 21, Shell Rock township. There were no buildings upon the place when it came into his possession, and he has since erected a substantial residence, good barns and sheds. He uses the latest improved machinery to carry on the work of the fields and is a leader rather than a follower in all that tends to promote progressive farming in this district.

In January, 1885, Mr. Miner was united in marriage to Miss Nettie L. Roberts, who was born in this county May 29, 1864, a daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Ann (Ayers) Roberts. The father, a native of Pennsylvania, died in this county in February, 1884, at the age of fifty-one years. The mother, a native of Illinois, died in 1868 at the age of twenty-nine years. They were

married in this county and their remaining days were here passed, Mr. Roberts following farming and carpentering. Unto him and his wife were born but two children: Helen J., the wife of J. H. Richardson of Shell Rock; and Mrs. Miner. The latter has become the mother of six children: Ward R., of Whiting, Iowa, where he is overseer of a ranch; Leland R., who is draftsman in the Iowa Dairy Separator factory of Waterloo, Iowa; J. W., a student of Ames College; Ethel, attending the State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls; Merle M., a teacher in the rural schools of Butler county; and Earl F., at home. The children have been provided with liberal educational advantages. The two eldest sons are graduates of Ames College, Ward having completed the course in agriculture and animal husbandry, while Leland pursued the mechanical engineering course. The former was judge on the college team that judged the stock at the International Stock Show in Chicago in 1908. J. W. Miner is pursuing a course in veterinary surgery, and the eldest daughter is studying home economics. It will thus be seen that the family are deeply interested in education along the broadening lines which lead to improvement in those things which have to do with the every day duties of business and home life.

In his political views Mr. Miner is a republican and is now serving as township trustee. He is a Mason, belonging to Shell Rock lodge, and he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. The family is widely and favorably known, the members of the household occupying an enviable position in social circles.

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### GEORGE ADAIR.

Among the pioneer settlers of Butler county George Adair is numbered. Six decades have been added to the cycle of centuries since he arrived in this section of the state. In fact no other resident of Shell Rock has so long lived in this district and throughout the entire period he has played well his part as a public-spirited citizen and an honorable man. For sixteen years he has been president of the Shell Rock Creamery Company and for an extended period was actively identified with farming interests. In fact he has contributed much of the agricultural development to



GEORGE ADAIR

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this section of the state and became widely known as proprietor of the Oakley Stock Farm.

Mr. Adair was born near Cedar Rapids, Iowa, January 21, 1847, and is a son of George W. and Elizabeth Ellen (Smith) Adair. The father was born near Lexington, Virginia, October 31, 1813, and the mother's birth occurred in Michigan, March 24, 1824. Coming to Iowa, he settled in Muscatine county, east of West Liberty in 1837. He was accompanied by his younger brother, William. In the same year Elizabeth Smith arrived in company with her father and settled in the same locality. They were married at Cedar Rapids in 1840 and there resided until 1853. In 1849, attracted by the discovery of gold in California, Mr. Adair drove an ox team across the country to the Pacific coast, being absent from home for two years. He was in hopes that the trip would benefit his health and found that it did. He spent some time in the mines, returning in 1851, and the following year he came to Butler county. Here he purchased forty acres of land of Alex Glenn and the following year purchased more land from Aaron Moore. Twelve blocks of the city of Shell Rock have been laid out on the forty acre tract which he purchased in 1852. The plat was recorded in 1855. It was in the spring of 1853 that he moved his family here, and that year he built a sawmill and dam across the Shell Rock river. He operated the mill, sawing for the settlers, and he also rafted timber down to Waterloo. He continued in the mill until 1869.

However, in the meantime, in 1867, he opened a hotel known as the Shell Rock House and conducted it until 1878, when he went to Kansas to visit a son and daughter. He died at Smith Center, that state, on the 3d of September, 1879. He was most prominently identified with industrial activity in this county at an early day. He built, between 1855 and 1857, the west side flouring mill in connection with his brother William, and soon after they sold their grist-mill to John F. Wright. In 1867, in company with E. W. Metzger, he built the east side flouring mill, which he operated for a number of years. He was thus closely associated with the business development of the community, and his enterprises were of untold value to the early settlers, who depended upon his operations for breadstuffs and for lumber. He was one of the incorporators of the first Methodist Episcopal church and erected the first house of worship in Shell Rock, it being the first church organized in the county. He took an active and helpful part in the church work throughout the remainder of his life and his wife was



equally earnest in her cooperation with all that pertained to the moral development of the community. He was earnest in his support of the temperance cause and in politics he was a democrat but never took an active part in politics aside from casting his ballot. He labored untiringly, however, to check the use of alcoholic beverages and was a member of the Independent Order of Good Templars, the meetings of which were held in his house. His life was indeed one of usefulness to the community and his worth was acknowledged by all who knew him. His wife survived him for almost a quarter of a century and died in Shell Rock in 1902. She shared with him in all his good work for the benefit of his fellowmen and many have reason to bless their memory.

They had a family of nine children: Mary Jane, the eldest, became the wife of E. Town of Shell Rock, but is now deceased. John, of Sioux City, Iowa, enlisted in June, 1861, as a member of Company B, Seventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry and after veteranizing served until July, 1865. He participated in many battles, his first engagement being at Belmont, Missouri. He was a member of what was called the Hornet's Nest Brigade and took part in the battles of Shiloh and Lookout Mountain and the Atlanta campaign. He also went on the campaign through the Carolinas and participated in the grand review in Washington, D. C. Lucy Ann became the wife of R. D. Bowen of Smith Center, Kansas. George is the next of the family. William W. is living in Kansas. Elizabeth Ellen is the wife of A. A. Allburn of Sioux City. Sarah Maria is the wife of Thomas Rawlings of Wakefield, Nebraska. Blanche A. became the wife of Charles Herrington of Wakefield, Nebraska. Nettie is the wife of George E. Mead of Shell Rock.

George Adair was a little lad of six summers when brought by his parents to Butler county, where he has resided continuously since, covering a period of sixty years. There is no resident of Shell Rock whose connection with the district antedates his and as a pioneer settler he has witnessed almost the entire growth and development of this part of the county. On the 14th of May, 1864, when a young man of seventeen years, he enlisted as a member of Company E, Forty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and served for one hundred days. He has always been actuated by a spirit of patriotism and has ever taken a helpful part in upholding the interests of county, state and nation. His reminiscences concerning this county are most interesting. He recalls the first Fourth of July celebration which he ever witnessed. In fact it was the first held in this county, the celebration taking place at Shell Rock in

1855. The people came in ox teams and on that occasion nearly every man, woman and child in the county was here.

Through his boyhood George Adair attended the district schools and worked in his father's sawmill. Since 1869 he has been identified with agricultural pursuits and is now the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of valuable land two miles southeast of Shell Rock. He still gives supervision to the place, although his son is actively operating it. The farm is splendidly improved and has upon it an immense barn fifty-two by ninety feet, also two concrete silos and every modern improvement. The place is known as the Oakley Stock Farm and Mr. Adair was the first breeder of Holstein cattle in this locality, continuing the breeding business for thirty years. While he is not active in the operation of the farm, he keeps in touch with every feature of the business and, moreover, he has for the past sixteen years been president of the Shell Rock Creamery Company, a cooperative creamery business which is incorporated. For fourteen years he was president of the Butler County Farmers Institute and he is a life member of the County Fair Association, of which he has been a director and treasurer. His association with the last two organizations indicates his deep interest in all that pertains to the development and improvement of the county along agricultural lines.

In 1872 Mr. Adair was united in marriage to Miss Ella Mason, who was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, July 5, 1853, and in 1856 was brought to Iowa by her parents, who located in Madison township, this county, but afterward removed to Cedar Falls and later came to Shell Rock. Her father, William Mason, was a native of England and was a woolen manufacturer. After coming to Iowa he purchased a half interest in a woolen mill in Shell Rock. While in Massachusetts he married Amelia Murgatroyd, also a native of England. Mr. and Mrs. Adair became the parents of five children: Claude Duvall, who is living on his father's farm, married Inez Temple and they have five children, Rex G., Zella Leone, Keith C. and Forest C., twins, and Victor Bruce. Allison G. was the second in order of birth and died at the age of two years, and ten months. Allen L., the third of the family, is a resident of Eagle, Idaho. He married Hilda Benson and they have two daughters, Ellen A. and Esther. Ada Lucile is the wife of A. F. Garner of Shell Rock township and they have two sons, George Mathias and Vernon Adair. William Mason, of Shell Rock, married Maude Irma Goodsell and is employed as a butter maker in the Shell Rock Creamery.

In his political views Mr. Adair is a democrat and has been his party's candidate for county supervisor and for representative. For thirty-three years he has been identified with the Odd Fellows Society and was chairman of the board of trustees of the Orphans and Old Folks Home of the Odd Fellows at Mason City. His life has been one of intense and intelligently directed activity. As the years have gone by he has put forth his effort in such a way that substantial results have accrued. His labors have enabled him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles and gradually he has advanced until he now occupies a position among the substantial citizens of the county.

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### JOHN H. HALL.

John H. Hall is the proprietor of the Sunnyside Stock Farm, one of the valuable properties of Jefferson township. Its name indicates the uses to which it is largely put, and the owner is regarded as one of the leading stock-raisers of his district. A native of Herfordshire, England, he was born August 27, 1846, his parents being James and Martha (Day) Hall, who were natives also of the same shire. The year 1854 witnessed the arrival of the family in the state of New York, settlement being made at Richwood flats, Saratoga county. Six months later they resumed their journey across the country with De Kalb county, Illinois, as their destination. Seven years were there spent and in 1861 they came to Butler county, Iowa, settling in Jefferson township. While in England the father was a shepherd, but in America followed the occupation of farming. He was in very close financial circumstances when he crossed the Atlantic but his indefatigable energy, perseverance and capable management made him a wealthy man, his landed possessions comprising seven hundred acres at the time of his death, which occurred in 1891, when he was seventy years of age. His wife died in 1900, at the age of seventy-two. Their children were seven in number: John H.; James, living in Jefferson township; Elizabeth, the wife of Al Nicholas of West Point township; Maria, the wife of Levi B. Knapp of Shell Rock; Joseph, who died at the age of sixteen years; Isaac, living in Minnesota; and Charles of Shell Rock. The last three were born in the United States.

John H. Hall accompanied his parents on their various removals, but at the age of fifteen years he reached Butler county, where he has resided continuously since 1861. He early became familiar with the arduous task of developing the new farm, and he has never hesitated to accomplish his purpose when it must be done at the cost of earnest, self-sacrificing labor. He has always carried on general farming, and the years have brought him prosperity, so that he now has extensive landed possessions. His home place comprises three hundred and twenty acres on sections 25 and 26, Jefferson township, in addition to which he owns a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 26, forty-five acres of timber on section 35, Jefferson township and two hundred acres in Shell Rock township, upon which his son now resides. He has long made stock-raising the principal feature of his farm work and handles high grades of stock for which he finds a ready and profitable sale upon the market. In purchasing cattle his sound judgment stands him in good stead. He is seldom, if ever, at fault in estimating upon the value of an animal, and when his stock are ready for the market their excellent condition insures a speedy sale.

On March 11, 1889, Mr. Hall was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Marie Manzel, who was born in Germany on the 17th of August, 1873. She lost her father when but eight years of age and in 1887 came to Iowa with her widowed mother and a brother, Henry Manzel, who is living in Shell Rock township with his mother, who, having married again, is now the wife of Carl Coleman. Mr. and Mrs. Hall have become the parents of six children: John, at home; James, living on his father's farm in Shell Rock township; Martha and Isaac at home; Lillian, who is a student in Osage Seminary; and Ruth, who completes the family.

Mr. Hall has an excellent home for his family. The farm upon which he resides has been in the possession of the Halls for over forty years, John H. Hall having purchased his first quarter section from his father. The purchase price was thirty-two hundred dollars, of which sum his father allowed him one thousand dollars as a present. It was prairie land and John H. Hall broke the sod and planted his crops, so cultivating the wild tract into productive fields. He also at once began making substantial improvements, and his progressive methods, as the years have gone by, have wrought radical changes in the appearance of the place, which is today one of the fine farms of Butler county. In politics Mr. Hall was always a republican until 1912,

since which time he has voted with the prohibition party. He and his wife belong to the Baptist church of Shell Rock, and they are held in high esteem, their many excellent traits of heart and mind endearing them to a large circle of warm friends.

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### CHARLES K. YOST.

Charles K. Yost, living on section 6, Ripley township, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, March 28, 1845, a son of Jacob and Julia (Kauffman) Yost. The father was born in a house that stood on the dividing line between Pennsylvania and Maryland and his natal year was 1809. The mother was a native of Ohio, and they were married in the latter state. In the spring of 1852 they arrived in Linn county, Iowa, where Mrs. Yost passed away in the fall of the same year. The father afterward removed to Toledo, Tama county, Iowa, where he remained until 1858, conducting a grocery store in that town. He next came to **Butler county**, settling in Madison township, but afterward removing to the vicinity of West Fork about 1866. There he passed away at the venerable age of eighty-two years. He was a shoemaker and followed that trade in early life and to some extent after coming to this county, working at the trade at the time when all shoes were made by hand. He also owned a farm in Madison township, which he afterward sold and purchased one in Ripley township. In Toledo he married, but his second wife passed away two years later, leaving no children. His third wife was Eveline B. Scott. There were five children by the first marriage: Mrs. Mary Ann Riddle, deceased; Sarah Jane, the widow of David Mason, residing at Meriden, Connecticut, where her husband was overseer of a large woolen mill; Josiah, who enlisted from this county as a member of Company C, Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry and was discharged owing to disability but later reenlisted, his death occurring since the war; Charles K.; and Mrs. Elizabeth Tarr, who died in California. By the father's third marriage there were the following children: J. B., living in **Minnesota**; Lucretia, deceased; George, also of **Minnesota**; E. E. and Lincoln, who are residents of Ripley township; Sherman, of Ripley township; Luther, of Hancock county, Iowa; **Cornelius**, whose home is in **Minnesota**; and Rachel, the wife of John McLaren, of Ripley township.

Charles K. Yost came to this county with his father about 1858 and has here since resided, covering a period of fifty-five years, in which he has witnessed almost the entire development, progress and upbuilding of the county. He has always followed farming and at one time owned four hundred and sixty-five acres but has since sold a portion. He now owns two hundred and eighty acres in this county and two hundred acres in Richland county, North Dakota. He has two hundred acres in the home place, which is well improved, being supplied with all the equipments and accessories of the model farm of the twentieth century. He has resided on this place since 1883 and is now practically living retired, having rented his farm to a son-in-law. There are two sets of buildings upon the place, and everything indicates the progressive spirit of the owner.

In 1871 Mr. Yost was united in marriage to Miss Aurilla Kincaid, who was born in Rockford, Illinois, June 4, 1851, a daughter of Edwin and Catharine (Kershner) Kincaid, who were natives of Maine, the former born in March, 1825, and the latter in April, 1828. They were married in the Pine Tree state and about 1850 came to Illinois with their one son. Other children were added to the family after their arrival here. Both parents died in Ripley township about 1890, only a week apart. They lived for six years in Wisconsin before coming to Iowa, whither they traveled with ox teams in 1859. They had ten children: Louis, now living in Oklahoma; Mrs. Yost; William, who died in Oregon; Myrtie, the wife of William Reed, of Oregon; Jessie, the wife of John Randolph, of Washington; Eugene, whose home is in Texas; Clara, the widow of Robert Smith, of Oregon; Ella, the deceased wife of Amos Vogt; and Edwin, who died in childhood. They had an adopted son that died in early life.

Mr. and Mrs. Yost became the parents of six children: William Quincy, now living in Minnesota; Della, the wife of Irvin Knoll, living upon her father's farm; Edwin, who is on his father's farm in North Dakota and also owns two hundred acres, cultivating, therefore, four hundred acres; Clara, the wife of Hugh Mosher, of Dubuque; Lela, the wife of Richard Ludeman, of Parkersburg; and Charles L., at home. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Yost was James Kershner, a native of France, born on the Rhine. He served for fifteen years and six months in the army under Napoleon. His wife, Mrs. Dereva Kershner, was born on the German side of the Rhine. Coming to America, they settled in Maine, where they died at an advanced age. The

paternal grandfather of Mr. Yost served in the German army in time of war.

In his political views Mr. Yost is a republican, staunchly supporting the principles of the party. He served as township trustee for a number of years and since 1874 has been school treasurer of school No. 3 in the district of Fort Sumter. He has in this connection paid all of the school teachers and has boarded over thirty of them. He and his wife are United Brethren in religious faith and are members of the Hitesville church in Ripley township. He is today one of the valued citizens of the county, a man whose well spent life has gained for him the high and well merited regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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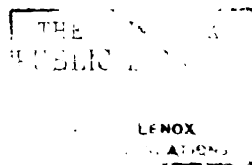
### CLARENCE W. SOESBE.

A young man of energy, resource and discrimination, Clarence W. Soesbe has been closely connected with financial interests of Greene since he began his active career and has risen to be vice president of the Merchants National Bank. He has other important business connections and is well known in the city and vicinity as a progressive, able and farsighted business man. He was born in Greene, this state, September 1, 1880, and is a son of E. W. Soesbe, who was born in Jones county, Iowa, November 11, 1851. The grandfather, William Soesbe, was a native of Kentucky, born in 1810. He was one of the first settlers in Jones county, Iowa, having taken up his residence there in 1839. E. W. Soesbe grew to manhood in that locality and in 1870 moved to Butler county, locating in Greene. In this city he married Miss Carrie L. Cross, a native of Butler county and a daughter of J. J. Cross, who entered land in Fremont township in pioneer times. E. W. Soesbe was a lawyer by profession, being associated with his brother, S. W. Soesbe. S. W. Soesbe was the first station agent at Greene, filling that position for a number of years. In 1883 the two brothers formed a partnership with J. B. Shepardson, organizing a private bank in Greene, the firm name being Soesbe, Shepardson & Company. This was reorganized in 1903 as the Merchants National Bank with E. W. Soesbe as president and his son, Clarence W., as cashier. Six months later the father died and Mr. Shepardson was made president, an office which he still holds. Mrs. E. W. Soesbe still retains her residence in Greene.



CLARENCE W. SOESBE





Clarence W. Soesbe was reared in Greene, acquiring his early education in the public schools of the city. He was graduated from the high school in 1896 and he later worked for one year in a bank. At the end of that time he entered the State University at Iowa City and was graduated from the liberal arts department in the college of law in 1901, receiving numerous honors. He afterward returned home and entered his father's bank as cashier, a position which he held for two or three years. At the end of that time he was elected vice president and this responsible position he still holds, his energy and ability being important factors in developing the extensive business which the bank controls. Mr. Soesbe acts as agent for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee and is engaged also in the real-estate business, handling improved farming lands in Butler and adjacent counties.

In West Branch, Iowa, on the 14th of June, 1904, Mr. Soesbe married Miss Clara Stuart, a native of Iowa, born in Johnson county. She was educated in the State University, graduating in 1902, and together with Mr. Soesbe, was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and other societies. Mr. and Mrs. Soesbe have two sons, Earl W. and Lee S. The parents are members of the Greene Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Soesbe has served as recording steward for the past nine years. They are very prominent in church and Sunday school work and well known in religious circles. A native son of Greene, Mr. Soesbe has thoroughly identified his interests with those of the city, his activities touching various phases of its public and business life. He is a progressive and able citizen and a careful and conscientious business man and he holds the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

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### FREDERICK TOLL.

Frederick Toll, one of the esteemed residents of Shell Rock, who in former years was actively identified with agricultural, stock-raising and dairying interests and other business affairs in Butler county, contributing to its material growth as well as to his individual success, was born in the province of Bromberg, Cedeneth, Prussia, Germany, May 9, 1839, his parents being Christian and Carolina (Werner) Toll. The mother died when

her son, Frederick, was but six years of age, and the father afterward married Johannah Udehart. In 1858 they crossed the Atlantic, made their way to Chicago, where they spent the winter and afterward resided for several years at Howard, McHenry county, Illinois. In 1863 they came to Butler county and settled in Jefferson township, where their remaining days were passed.

The father was a brick manufacturer of Germany, owning and operating a brickyard there, but after coming to this country he followed farming. Unto him and his first wife were born six children: Caroline and Charles, both deceased; Frederick, the third in order of birth; Adolph, who has also passed away; Mrs. Minnie Apfel of Shell Rock; and Herman, of Washington. Unto the father's second marriage were born two children: Mrs. Johannah Jacobs, of Clarksville; and Augusta, of Chicago.

Frederick Toll spent the greater part of his boyhood and youth in his native land and there learned the brick maker's trade with his father. He followed that pursuit until he came to the United States, landing at New York on the 8th of October, 1858. He soon afterward joined his parents and resided with them until after the removal of the family to Iowa. At the time of his marriage he started out in business independently, purchasing one hundred and twenty acres of school land two miles east of Butler Center, for which he paid two dollars per acre. It was entirely wild and unimproved, when it came into his possession. He had no capital when he started out in life on his own account, but he was allowed ten years in which to pay for the property and, carefully saving his earnings, he was not only able to discharge his indebtedness, but also to add to his land, making purchases from time to time until he was the owner of six hundred and forty acres of good farm land and eleven acres of timber. The entire tract is situated on Jefferson township, save one hundred and forty acres in Butler township. Mr. Toll made stock-raising the principal feature of his place. He raised a large number of hogs each year and also handled cattle. He conducted a dairy, milking twenty-three cows, at one time and he was a director in the Cooperative Creamery Company of Coster. He resided in Jefferson township for forty years, from 1863 until 1903, when he retired to Shell Rock, where he has since lived in the enjoyment of a well earned rest.

In 1867 Mr. Toll was united in marriage to Miss Jane Borchert, who was born in Hanover, Germany, September 3, 1851, and went to New Jersey in 1854 with her parents, Carl and Christiana

(Hinemeyer) Borchers. In the year 1856 the parents left New Jersey and removed westward to Illinois, coming in 1865 to Butler county, her father taking up farming in Ripley township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Toll were born eight children: Flora, who became the wife of Ed Trager and died leaving two children; Fred H. and Charles A., who are mentioned elsewhere in this volume; William A., living in Jefferson township; George O., a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work; Irving of Swanton; Carrie, the wife of Roy Betts of Shell Rock; and Clarence, who is living on the old homestead in Jefferson township.

In his political views Mr. Toll is a republican, having voted for the party since becoming a naturalized American citizen. He is one of the pioneer settlers of this part of the state, there having been but two houses on the Butler Center road at the time of his arrival. He hauled his goods to Cedar Falls, which was the nearest railroad market, and he underwent many of the hardships and privations of pioneer life. He can recall many changes which have occurred during the half century of his residence in the county, for work of development and improvement has done away with all of the pioneer conditions and brought about a condition of progressive prosperity that is most gratifying.

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### FRED W. CROSS.

Among the men of Fremont township who have risen by the force of their energy and ability to a place of importance in business circles is numbered Fred W. Cross, a well known farmer and stock-raiser. In the course of many years' residence here he has accumulated valuable holdings and now owns in conjunction with his sons three fine farms on section 15. He was born in Bremer county, Iowa, June 4, 1857, and is a son of Jackson J. Cross, a native of Cattaraugus county, New York. The father there resided until he was seventeen years of age and learned the carpenter's trade. He afterward worked at building railroad bridges in Ohio and Indiana for a number of years and then removed to Illinois, where he married Miss Permelia Ballard, also a native of Cattaraugus county, New York. In 1853 Jackson Cross came to Iowa, settling at Syracuse, Bremer county, where for a time he engaged in contracting and building. Later he located on a farm on section 1, Fremont township, buying one hundred and fifty-

six acres, fifty-six of which he afterward sold. Upon the one hundred acres remaining he resided for a number of years, becoming a prosperous and substantial agriculturist. He later removed to Chickasaw county, settling in Nashua, where he now resides. He held various positions of public trust and responsibility in Fremont township and was well and favorably known in this locality.

Fred W. Cross was reared at home and aided in the operation of his father's farm until he was twenty-five years of age. He married in 1882 and immediately afterward took up his residence upon a portion of the farm which he now owns. At that time he purchased eighty acres of land in Fremont township and after breaking the soil began the work of improvement and cultivation. He set out a grove and an orchard and remodeled the house, which is now an excellent two-story residence. He also erected a barn and convenient outbuildings. From time to time he purchased more land and now owns in conjunction with his sons four hundred acres on section 15, this being divided into three farms. They make a business of raising high-grade shorthorn cattle, Poland China hogs and heavy work horses, and they have made this branch of their business extremely profitable.

On the 8th of March, 1882, in Floyd county, Mr. Cross married Miss Evelyn Porter, who was born in Chickasaw county, but reared in Floyd county. For a number of years previous to her marriage she engaged in teaching. Mr. and Mrs. Cross became the parents of five children: Charles, an evangelist; Harry, who is married and operates one of his father's farms; Fred and Victor, partners with their father in his farming and stock-raising operations; and Edith, a successful school teacher.

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#### ALFRED HICKLE.

Alfred Hickle is engaged in general farming on section 26, Jackson township. His life record contains no spectacular phases but proves what may be accomplished when industry and perseverance become the salient features in a man's life. He was born in McLean county, Illinois, March 2, 1846, and was a little lad of seven summers when brought to Iowa by his parents, John and Hester (Van Gundy) Hickle, who are mentioned in connection with the sketch of W. J. Hickle on another page of this work.

Their family numbered seven children, of whom Alfred is the third in order of birth. He remained with his parents upon the farm in Butler township until he enlisted for active service in the Civil war in 1863, as a member of Company G, Eighth Iowa Cavalry. He served for two years and one month, or until the close of hostilities, and participated in a number of hotly contested battles, which led up to the final victory that crowned the Union arms.

Following the close of the war Alfred Hickle returned home and assisted his father to the time of his marriage in 1870. He then took up his abode upon a farm belonging to his father in Butler township, residing there for twelve and a half years, or until he purchased his present farm on the 17th of April, 1882. He first became the owner of eighty acres, but has since extended the boundaries of his place until it now comprises one hundred and sixty acres on section 26. No improvements had been made upon the place when it came into his possession, although the prairie sod had been broken and some crops had been planted. Mr. Hickle made all of the improvements, erecting a substantial residence and good barns and outbuildings, and he also set out all of the trees. There was no shade upon the place when he took possession, but today fine growing trees add to the attractive appearance of his place. During the past thirty-one years he has done much hard work here, and the farm shows the result thereof, being today one of the highly cultivated and well improved places of Jackson township.

On the 15th of May, 1870, Mr. Hickle was united in marriage to Miss Annie McClintock, who was born in Dubuque county, Iowa, April 21, 1852, and on the 28th of March, 1865, came to this county with her parents, J. H. and Ruth (Winchell) McClintock, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of New York. Their last days, however, were spent in this county. They had a family of three sons and three daughters, and two sons and two daughters are yet living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hickle have been born two children. Alvin D., the elder, resides on his father's farm and married Gertie Arts, and they have three children—Dora Anna, Grace Ruth and Robert Alfred. Florence Mabel is the wife of George Woolridge of Tripp county, South Dakota. They have four children: Clarence Warren, Dorothy Viola, Donald Ernest and Ruth A.

Mr. Hickle is a republican in his political views and is a public-spirited citizen, whose support can be counted upon to further

measures and movements for the general good. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic and is as loyal to his country in days of peace as when he followed the old flag upon the battle-fields of the south.

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### REV. JOSEPH J. GOUGH.

From early pioneer times the name of Gough has been closely associated with the agricultural development of Butler county and this section of the state and at the present writing Joseph J. Gough is engaged in active church work, while at the same time he carries on his farming and stock-raising interests. He has always believed with Lincoln that "there is something better than making a living—making a life," and, while he possesses the laudable ambition of providing well for his family, he has also found time and opportunity to aid in the establishment of those principles which are ever factors in upright, honorable manhood. His birthplace was his father's farm, four miles northwest of Clarksville, and his natal day June 12, 1858. He was the fourth in a family of six children born to William and Susannah (Walsh) Gough, who are mentioned in connection with the sketch of Thomas A. Gough on another page of this work.

Joseph J. Gough has spent his entire life in Butler county save for four years, from 1879 until 1883, passed in Valley City, North Dakota. He broke prairie for one season and had a pre-emption claim of a quarter section of land. He also speculated in cattle and horses. With the exception of this period of four years he has always been identified with farming interests in Butler county and for twenty-two years he operated a threshing machine here. For a quarter of a century he has resided upon his present place, being now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich and valuable land on sections 3 and 10, West Point township, his home being situated on the latter section. When he purchased this it was raw prairie, not a furrow having been turned nor an improvement made upon the place, but with characteristic energy he began its development, recognizing the possibilities here offered. He turned the sod for the first time upon his quarter section, fenced the land, took out the stones and erected all of the buildings upon the place, which is now a well improved property, lacking in none of the accessories of the model

farms of the present age. His time has been given to the cultivation of crops best adapted to soil and climate and to the raising of stock of all kinds, and both branches of his business have proved profitable, owing to his capable management and enterprising spirit. He is recognized as a man of sound judgment and keen discrimination, and his cooperation is regarded as a valuable factor in the management of other interests. He is identified with the Farmers' Cooperative Elevator Company of Allison, of which he was secretary for a time, and he is also a stockholder of the West Point Mutual Telephone Company.

On the 27th of January, 1886, occurred the marriage of Mr. Gough and Miss Emma J. Chapman, who was born in Butler county, December 12, 1865, a daughter of Ira and Mary (McKinney) Chapman. The mother died when the daughter was but six years old, and the father is now an inmate of the Gough home. Seven children have been added to the Gough family as the years have gone by. Edward T., who married Miss Edna Robbins, is a Methodist Episcopal preacher, residing at Boston, Massachusetts. After his graduation from the Upper Iowa University he attended the Boston University for three years, pursuing the theological course. His wife is also a graduate of the Upper Iowa University and spent one year in the study of music in Chicago. They were married on the 3d of September, 1913, and started the same day for Boston, where they are now located. Susannah E. is the wife of A. E. Kernahan, who was graduated from the Upper Iowa University and is now a student in the theological department of Boston University. Mildred J. is the wife of Lewis Currell, who for several years has been superintendent of schools at different places and is now located on a farm in West Point township, Butler county. Wilford I., who married Lilly Roberts, is a resident farmer of West Point township. Joseph J. is at home. Galal R. is a high-school pupil at Bristow. John B., who was named after a distant relative, the famous temperance lecturer, John B. Gough, is now a high-school pupil at Bristow.

Since age conferred upon him the right of franchise Mr. Gough has voted with the republican party. He holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and for the past ten years has been a local preacher in that denomination, having now been minister of the church at Aredale for the past two and a half years. He devotes all of the time possible to church work. A self-educated man, he never had the advantage of the high-school



or college course, but he possesses a large library and has been an extensive reader. Possessing a retentive memory, he is continually adding to his knowledge and thus promoting his efficiency as one of the world's workers, and his high ideals of life find expression in his practical and effective efforts for the benefit of his fellowmen.

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### J. C. CARTER.

Statistics show that many of the substantial citizens of this county have come from Wisconsin. With the tide of emigration steadily flowing westward they crossed the Mississippi to become active factors in the development of a frontier region here. Among the number is J. C. Carter, who was born in Monroe, Green county, Wisconsin, October 25, 1856, his parents being John and Dorothy (Hickman) Carter, who were natives of Yorkshire, England, and arrived in America at the age of seventeen and eighteen years respectively. They were married in Green county and there the father passed away June 25, 1881, at the age of forty-nine years. The mother still survives and is living in that county, having reached the age of seventy-nine years on the 22d of April, 1913. Mr. Carter was a successful farmer and a good man, whose religion was to do right to all his fellows. His political indorsement was given to the republican party and he held a number of local offices. Legislative honors would have also been conferred upon him, but he preferred not to become a member of the general assembly. His life record indicates what may be accomplished when laudable ambition and unabating energy point the way, for he started out in life empty-handed and by means of his persistent and well directed labors he left an estate valued at eighty thousand dollars.

His children, eleven in number, were: J. C., of this review; W. M., of Clarksville; George Henry, who died in Jackson township in September, 1901, leaving a family, who are still living in this county; Joseph, who died in his third year; Frank E., of Monroe, Wisconsin; Fred M., also living in Monroe; Fannie Mary, the wife of A. W. Jenny, mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Dora May, the wife of Edwin Deal of Monroe, Wisconsin; Anna E., the wife of William Dreibelbis of Green county, Wisconsin;



J. C. CARTER

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Ella M., the wife of John Haase, of Monroe; and Newton Le Roy, who died at the age of eighteen years.

J. C. Carter spent the days of his boyhood and youth in his native county and is indebted to its public-school system for the educational opportunities which he enjoyed. He came to Iowa in 1886 when a young man of thirty years and has since lived upon his present farm on section 17, Jackson township. His first purchase of land made him owner of eighty acres, to which he has added from time to time, thus extending the boundaries of his farm until it now comprises three hundred and twenty acres. It is without a doubt one of the finest farms in all the county, the work of cultivation and the improvements that have been made upon it enhancing its value until it is now worth two hundred dollars per acre. Its buildings are substantial; commodious barns and sheds furnish ample shelter for grain and stock; and the home is an attractive residence. Mr. Carter has largely engaged in raising stock, both cattle and hogs, and has had as high as three hundred head of cattle upon his place at one time. His shipments average about six carloads of stock annually, he sending away a carload about every two months. Mr. Carter, however, feels that his active labors as farmer and stock-raiser are nearly at an end, for he has rented his farm for the succeeding season, and will retire from business life in February, 1914, removing at that time to Allison. He was prominently identified with financial interests as a director and president of the Farmers Savings Bank at Allison, having been at the head of that institution for ten years, or until it was sold. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company of Allison; the Co-operative Creamery Company of Allison, and is secretary of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company. His cooperation is eagerly sought in the conduct of important business interests because it is recognized that his judgment is sound and his enterprise unfaltering.

In 1884 Mr. Carter was married to Miss Mary B. Earlewine, who was born in Monroe, Wisconsin, in 1861, a daughter of Jackson and Mary Jane (Ely) Earlewine, the former a native of Ohio. His death occurred in Broadhead, Wisconsin, where his wife still lives. Mr. and Mrs. Carter have become the parents of six children: Charles Hugh at home; Elsie B.; Ruth Imo, a graduate of the high school of Allison and now engaged in teaching; Amy Ethel; Mary Hope, who died at the age of six months; and Dean J.

Mr. Carter has ever been a public-spirited citizen, interested in all measures for the general good and his cooperation has been a valuable factor in promoting worthy public projects. He is a director of the Fair Association of Allison and as such has done much to stimulate an interest in its exhibits. He was census enumerator for the United States when but twenty-two years of age and has been school officer for many years but has no political ambition. He votes independently, holding himself free to support the candidates whom he regards as best qualified for public office. His record proves how excellent are the advantages which Iowa offers to her agriculturists. The man who is not afraid to work will always find that her soil responds readily to his wise cultivation. Mr. Carter won success in that way and his many friends rejoice that a well earned rest is soon to be his.

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#### FRANK A. YEOMAN.

Frank A. Yeoman owns one hundred and ninety acres of valuable land comprised in two farms, and in their development he has met with a degree of prosperity which places him among the substantial and prosperous agriculturists of Dayton township. He has been a resident of Iowa since 1866, coming to this state when a youth of sixteen years, his birth having occurred in Loraine county, Ohio, May 4, 1850. When he was two years of age his parents removed with their family to Wisconsin, where he resided until he reached the age of ten years. In 1860 the family returned to Amherst, Ohio, remaining in that state until 1866, in which year they again migrated westward, their destination being Mahaska county, Iowa, where the father purchased a farm of two hundred acres. Upon that place Frank Yeoman grew to manhood and in 1872, when a young man of twenty-two years, he came to Butler county, where he was employed as a farm hand for some time. Subsequently he returned to Mahaska county, where he was married.

Mr. Yeoman then rented a farm in that locality, but at the end of four years came again to Butler county, where he settled upon a tract of land of two hundred acres. For ten years thereafter he made his home upon that property and in 1890 took up his abode upon a tract of two hundred acres adjoining his present farm, there remaining until 1912. In the meantime he pur-

chased a farm of eighty acres which he improved and developed, but did not locate thereon until 1912. Upon the natural building site he erected an excellent residence. The house stands high, commanding an excellent view of the surrounding country and a comprehensive view of the farm. He set out a good orchard, built a substantial barn, fenced his fields and carried forward the work of improvement along the most progressive lines. From time to time he added to his holdings, owning today two excellent farms comprising one hundred and ninety acres. In the cultivation of these properties he is assisted by his son, and they have been very successful, conducting both general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising, which they carry on extensively. They breed shorthorn and Polled Durham cattle, Belgian and Norman horses and a good grade of hogs, and their live-stock interests constitute an important source of revenue for them. Mr. Yeoman is, moreover, a stockholder in the Farmers' Cooperative Elevator Company of Greene and is widely recognized as a man of business ability and sagacity. His success is entirely due to his own well directed labor, for he began life with few resources and has steadily worked his way upward to success.

In Mahaska county, Iowa, on the 30th of March, 1876, Mr. Yeoman was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Stout, a native of Mahaska county, Iowa, and they have become the parents of three children. Charles Arthur is in partnership with his father and resides upon one of the latter's farms. He is married and has one son, Gilbert. Lila May is the wife of Lon Woodward, of Greene, and they have two sons. Luella married Theodore Thomas, of Greene, and they have four children, two sons and two daughters. In 1912 Mr. and Mrs. Yeoman made a trip to the Pacific coast, traveling through the Rocky mountains and visiting Denver, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Spokane and many other places of interest.

Fraternally Mr. Yeoman is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is a past grand, and he and his wife are members of the Rebekahs. He is independent in his political views and has always taken an active part in community affairs, being recognized as a public-spirited and progressive citizen. He was elected township trustee and was twice reelected to this office. He has also been a delegate to numerous county conventions. He is a trustee in the Packard Methodist Episcopal church and takes an active and helpful part in various lines of church work. Throughout his residence in Butler county, cov-

ering about thirty-five years, he has proved himself an active and industrious farmer, a careful and conservative business man and a progressive and public-spirited citizen, his many salient traits of character winning him the confidence, esteem and good-will of the entire community.

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### JOHN H. PLANTZ.

John H. Plantz, now deceased, was the owner of an excellent farm on section 36, Shell Rock township, where his family still resides. He was born in Johnstown, New York, May 31, 1830, a son of Peter and Margaret (Putnam) Plantz, who were also natives of the Empire state, but died in Illinois. The family continued to reside in New York until 1846, when they removed to Ogle county, Illinois. The father was a millwright and followed that trade during the greater part of his life. To him and his wife were born nine children: Catharine, the deceased wife of Timothy Plantz; John H.; Jacob, who has passed away; Martin, who is living in Nebraska; Maria, the wife of Harry Clayton, of Des Moines, Iowa; Rebecca, the deceased wife of John Kiested; Victor, a resident of Des Moines; David, of Washington; and Malvina, the deceased wife of Will Wright.

John H. Plantz was a youth of sixteen years when the family left the east and went to Illinois. He continued a resident of Ogle county until 1861, when he came to Iowa and settled on a farm five miles south of Shell Rock, there residing to the time of his death which occurred forty-five years later, on March 21, 1906. He always carried on general agriculture pursuits, yet also worked at the carpenter's trade to a considerable extent. He carefully developed his place and made it a well improved farm, the changes being wrought through his own efforts. His fields were carefully tilled so that he annually harvested good crops. He erected a large residence and substantial outbuildings, which in turn were surrounded by broad acres devoted to the cultivation of corn, wheat and other cereals. He also made stock-raising a feature of his place.

On the 4th of June, 1857, Mr. Plantz was married to Miss Samantha Whitney, who was born in Prescott, Ontario, Canada, July 15, 1834, and in 1854 went to Illinois with her sister and brother-in-law. Her parents were Samuel and Mary (Jackson)

Whitney, who spent their entire lives upon the farm in Ontario. They had nine children, four sons and five daughters. It was in Ogle county, Illinois, that Mr. and Mrs. Plantz were married and to them were born five children: Cynthia, who became the wife of George Hettler and died in Colorado; Hannah Margaret, the wife of Henry Nichols of Des Moines, Iowa; William W., who operates the home place for his mother; Joseph Milton, living in Nashua, Iowa; and Harry Roy, of Finchford, Iowa. The two eldest children were born in Illinois and the three youngest upon the home farm in Shell Rock township. Mrs. Plantz is now in her eightieth year, yet does all of her own housework and is accounted one of the good housekeepers of this part of the county. In politics Mr. Plantz was a republican, and his support was given to the party without hope of the rewards of office. He was willing, day after day, to perform the duties that devolved upon him, and his sterling traits of character gained for him the respect and confidence of all who knew him. Mrs. Plantz has now been a resident of Butler county for fifty-two years and can relate many interesting incidents of the early days when this was the frontier district and the work of development and improvement seemed scarcely begun. Many changes have occurred since then, and the primitive homes have been replaced by commodious and substantial farm residences. There are also many changes in the methods of farming, as improved agricultural implements have been introduced. Well advanced in years, Mrs. Plantz is still active, and it is the wish of her many friends that she may yet be spared for years to come.

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#### CHARLES ERNEST GRAHAM.

Charles Ernest Graham needs no introduction to the readers of this volume, for he has been a lifelong resident of Butler county, his birth having occurred on the 10th of September, 1868, in Clarksville, in the house which he now occupies. He is a son of the Rev. George and Almyra (Rose) Graham. The father was born in Bucyrus, Ohio, on the 13th of December, 1826, and the mother's birth occurred in Granville, that state, August 3, 1830. They were reared and married in Ohio. The father was educated in the Washington and Jefferson College and a theological college and, having determined to enter the ministry, became a Presby-



terian clergyman. For nearly forty years he was the loved and esteemed pastor of the Presbyterian church at Clarksville and no man in this county has had more to do with its moral development. He had held only one pastorate before he removed to Clarksville and from that time forward he devoted his efforts and energies to the work of upbuilding his church in this section of Iowa. He was a man of no restricted influence, being denied not the harvest nor the aftermath of his labors, and his good work is still an active force in the lives of many with whom he came in contact. He died in Clarksville on the 28th of October, 1900, honored and respected by all who knew him. In no less degree was his wife esteemed and when her death occurred, on the 12th of December, 1905, many friends mourned her loss. Aside from his duties as a clergyman Rev. George Graham served for a short time as superintendent of schools in Butler county to fill a vacancy in that office. Unto him and his wife were born four children: Mary, who is now living with her brother, M. H., of Mahtowa, Minnesota; Frank H., a resident farmer of Butler township; M. H., a farmer of Mahtowa, Minnesota; and Charles E.

Throughout practically his entire life Charles E. Graham has been a resident of Clarksville, acquiring his education in its public schools and afterward conducting a photographic gallery for about three years. He also spent a year in photographic work in Eldora and was upon the road for twelve years in connection with scenic work, but made Clarksville his home. During that period he represented the interests of the Scenic Art Company, of which he was sole proprietor, and he had a number of employes with him. At different times he conducted two newspapers, the Brookston (Ind.) Reporter and the Tremont (Ill.) Sun, owning and editing both for a year. He then sold out and returned to the road, being engaged in photographic work for a short time. At length he entered upon his present business of painting and decorating and is proprietor of a well appointed paint and wall paper store in Clarksville, which he established in 1912. He carries a large and well selected line of wall paper and takes contracts for work of this character. He possesses an artistic nature, which has found expression in his photographic work and is of much assistance to him in carrying on his present business, enabling him to make most helpful suggestions to his patrons.

Mr. Graham was married on the 12th of January, 1907, to Miss Emma Rottink, who was born in Butler township and is a daughter of Herman Rottink, who is mentioned elsewhere in this

volume. Mr. and Mrs. Graham have a son, George Gordon. In his political views Mr. Graham is an earnest republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, yet has never been active as an office seeker, although he filled the position of deputy county auditor. He has always remained loyal to the Christian faith in which he was reared, being a member of the Presbyterian church, and his life has ever been characterized by high and honorable principles that make him worthy of the warm regard in which he is uniformly held.

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#### ANSON G. WELCH.

Among the men who enjoy a high reputation as able, up-to-date and shrewd business men in Butler county is Anson G. Welch, prominently and widely known in connection with the Welch Grain Company, an establishment which is of the greatest importance to the farming district surrounding New Hartford. Mr. Welch is a native of Iowa, his birth having occurred in Marshall county, March 5, 1877. He is a son of Isaac P. and Elizabeth (Compton) Welch, natives of Virginia, the former of whom was born in 1831 and the latter in 1839. The father was one of a surveying party which many years ago made their surveys in this part of the state. He is now in partnership with our subject under the name of the Welch Grain Company. There are six living children in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac P. Welch: Rachel E., Harriet A., Mary A., Anson G., Bertha E. and Charles L. There are also four deceased: Rosa V., Augusta, John W. and Edwin.

Anson G. Welch was reared under the parental roof and attended school in Grundy Center, this state, until sixteen years of age. He then turned his attention to farm work, continuing along that line until 1909. He then spent one year in traveling and, returning to New Hartford, engaged with his father in grain buying, their operations being conducted under the name of the Welch Grain Company. Shrewd, and an able business man, Mr. Welch has been exceedingly successful in his line, in which he has come to be recognized as an expert. The firm buys a great deal of the grain which is raised in this section, and Mr. Welch has been able to market his staple to such good advantage that pros-

perity has rewarded his transactions although he has been in business but a few years.

Politically Mr. Welch is a republican, giving his stanch support to the measures and candidates of that party. He is interested in all matters of public benefit, but he himself has never seen fit to enter the political arena although his interest in the cause of education has led him to accept a position on the school board, of which he is still a member. He attends the Methodist church and fraternally is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. In business circles of New Hartford he enjoys a reputation as one of the most progressive men in commercial life, and he is generally highly respected, for all of his business transactions have ever been such as to merit the highest confidence.

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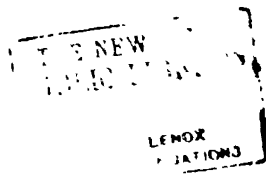
### HENRY W. HARMS.

For thirty-eight years the name of Harms has figured in connection with the history of Butler county, being identified with its agricultural and financial interests. Henry W. Harms is today an active farmer, owning and cultivating the old home place of three hundred and twenty acres on sections 6 and 21, Jefferson township. His residence is a commodious and beautiful one standing on an elevation and commanding a fine view of the surrounding country. Every phase of farm life is carefully superintended by him and his practical methods and capable management have made him one of the men of affluence of Butler county.

Henry W. Harms was born in East Friesland, Germany, August 16, 1868, his parents being G. P. and Deborah (De Bower) Harms, who were also natives of the same locality, the former born February 19, 1844, and the latter on the 31st of August, 1837. They were married in 1867. Mrs. Harms was at that time a widow and by her former husband, Martin Meffen, who was a sailor and was drowned at sea, had one child, a daughter, Martha, who is now the wife of Ed De Bower, of West Point township. In the fall following the birth of their son, Henry W., Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Harms crossed the Atlantic and became residents of Dane county, Wisconsin, where they resided for a number of years, or until the fall of 1875. They then came to Butler county, arriving at the home of William Folkers, north of Allison, on the 10th of October. The father drove a team and Henry W. Harms also drove one from



MR. AND MRS. G. P. HARMS



Wisconsin, while the women and children of the household followed on the train. For four years G. P. Harms cultivated rented land and then purchased one hundred and twenty acres of what is now the old Harms homestead. The family practiced frugality, economy and industry so that Mr. Harms was able to add one hundred and sixty acres to his original purchase and later bought tracts of one hundred and twenty, one hundred and sixty and two hundred acres respectively. Subsequently his sons rented a quarter section east of him and when they had saved one thousand dollars he sold them the quarter, allowing them two thousand dollars for their one thousand dollar payment down. Later he sold them still more land. The father continued to engage actively in general agricultural pursuits until 1896, when he removed to a small place and let his son, Henry W. Harms, have the old homestead. He then retired and now spends a part of his time in visiting around among his children. He has made two trips back to Germany since coming to the new world and during 1912 spent most of the summer in Europe. The success which has come to him enables him now to enjoy life without further care concerning an income. For a time he owned a controlling interest in the Farmers Bank of Allison and he also conducted a lumberyard for a number of years both enterprises proving a gratifying source of profit. He also bought and sold considerable land, from which he realized a good return. He has ever been most generous with his means in assisting others and has been especially helpful to many German friends in enabling them to secure farms. He had only about twenty-five dollars when he arrived in this county and a widowed mother and younger brothers and sisters in Germany, who were dependent upon him for support. His entire life was one of unfaltering industry and perseverance and gradually he worked his way upward, his record proving that success is not a matter of genius or of fortunate circumstances, as some declare, but is rather the outcome of clear judgment and unfaltering enterprise. While he became a self-made man he has never selfishly hoarded his gains nor is there any taint of dishonor about his accumulations. He has never taken advantage of the necessities of others in business transactions, and his record is another proof of the old adage that honesty is the best policy.

In politics G. P. Harms has always been a staunch republican since becoming a naturalized American citizen and has taken an active part in political affairs, being much interested in the significant and vital questions of the day. In 1900 he was called

upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away in February of that year, her death being deeply regretted by many friends as well as by her immediate family. She was a member of the German Lutheran church, to which Mr. Harms also belongs. He assisted in founding the church of that denomination at Vilmar and afterward organized the church in Jefferson township known as the Friedens German Lutheran church. Thus he has gone on doing good in one way or another as the years have passed, and his life record is fraught with many kindly deeds. To him and his wife were born five children: Henry W.; Tina, the wife of William J. Poppen, of Jefferson township; Kate, the wife of F. A. Poppen, of the same township; Minnie, who married H. Foulkon, of Rockwell, Iowa; and Ed, living in West Point township.

Henry W. Harms was brought to America when but six weeks old and has been a resident of Butler county from the age of seven years. He has always followed farming, to which occupation he was reared, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He is now the owner of the old homestead of three hundred and twenty acres and is most pleasantly situated in life. His attractive home, occupying an elevation that enables him to look far over the country, is large and built in an attractive style of architecture. In the rear are large barns and substantial outbuildings and his modern and highly improved farm machinery indicates his progressive spirit. He makes stock-raising an important feature of his business and uses all of the grain which he produces. He now handles about one hundred head of cattle and two carloads of hogs annually and his business affairs are capably and successfully managed. In 1913 he purchased another farm, becoming the owner of two hundred and forty acres near Riceville, Howard county, Iowa. In addition to his agricultural interests he was a director of the Farmers Savings Bank of Allison and he is now a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Elevator of Allison and president of the Jefferson Central Telephone Company. His business judgment is sound and his discrimination keen, and as the years go by his well directed interests contribute to public prosperity as well as to individual success.

Mr. Harms has been married twice. In 1894 he wedded Talka Hoodjer, who died in June, 1900, leaving five sons, Gerhard, Claus, Edward, William and Henry. In 1901 Mr. Harms married Miss Alcha Hoodjer, a sister of his first wife. Both were born in Germany and came to America about 1892. Their father was Claus

Hoodjer. There have been seven children born of the second marriage, Grace, Mattie, Walter, Ella, Gertrude, John and Paul. The religious faith of the family is that of the German Lutheran church, and their loyalty thereto is pronounced, while their support is generous and helpful. Mr. Harms is a progressive republican and for four years has been trustee of his township. He is ever active in conserving interests for promoting the public welfare and his influence is always on the side of progress, truth, reform and improvement.

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### CHARLES E. CHURCH.

Charles E. Church, a valued and representative citizen of Parkersburg, prominently connected with business interests as the proprietor of a modern garage, was born in Waverly, Iowa, March 1, 1866. He is a son of Francis M. and Fannie (Brown) Church, the former born in New York state in 1836 and the latter in DuPage county, Illinois, in 1839. The parents came to Beaver township, this county, in 1869 and the father died in that locality October 6, 1910. In their family were ten children: Cora, who died at the age of three; Mary A., who passed away on the 14th of October, 1910; Fred A., who resides in Waterloo; Francis E., of Sinclair, who married Lydia Card, by whom he has four children; Charles E., of this review; Florence A., who married Charles A. Dean, a farmer in Waterloo, by whom she has seven children; Sarah J., who makes her home in Waterloo; Eva, who became the wife of Byron Norton, of Shell Rock, and died leaving eight children; Arthur E., at home; and Jennie, who married Arthur Robertson, an electrician in Chicago, by whom she has two children.

Charles E. Church engaged in farm labor until he was thirty-two years of age and then moved to Parkersburg, where he established himself in the livery business. At the end of two years he purchased a restaurant which he conducted for four years, after which he was in the saloon business for a similar period of time. He then purchased a hotel in Parkersburg and after conducting it for five years rented the establishment and became interested in a garage, which he has since owned. He has met with an enviable degree of success, for he is a farsighted and resourceful business man, quick to recognize a business opportunity and capa-



ble of carrying forward his plans to successful completion. He has valuable property interests, owning besides his hotel a garage, two fine residences in Parkersburg and a half section of land in North Dakota.

On the 22d of February, 1889, in Waverly, Iowa, Mr. Church married Miss Hannah Card, a daughter of Lyman Card, a pioneer of Butler county. Mr. and Mrs. Church have two children, Raymond C. and Harry S. The elder son married Miss Anna Becker, a daughter of John Becker, a farmer in Parkersburg, the marriage taking place on the 4th of September, 1912.

Mr. Church is connected fraternally with the Knights of Pythias. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and has been road superintendent and school director, proving himself a reliable and capable public official. He holds the esteem and confidence of all who have personal or business relations with him.

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#### W. M. NESBIT.

W. M. Nesbit, a resident farmer of Jefferson township, highly respected for his sterling worth, makes his home on section 28 and is the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred and ten acres which he has brought under a high state of cultivation. He was born in Freeport, Illinois, December 17, 1853, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Case) Nesbit, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Vermont. They were married in Freeport, and there the father died of cholera during the infancy of his son, W. M. Nesbit. The mother passed away in Cedar Falls, Iowa, when the son was eleven years of age. He was the elder of two children, his sister being Eva, the wife of William Shorter, of Mount Grove, Missouri.

Following the removal of the family to Iowa, W. M. Nesbit resided in Blackhawk county until he came to Butler county in 1875. He has since lived upon his present farm with the exception of a period of two years. His entire life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits and prospering in his undertakings, he has become the owner of two hundred and ten acres situated on section 28, Jefferson township. Only about sixty acres had been placed under the plow when he took possession. Since then he has splendidly improved the property according to modern meth-

ods of farming. A fine, large residence stands in the midst of well tilled fields, and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place indicates the careful supervision of the owner.

On the 7th of March, 1874, Mr. Nesbit was united in marriage to Miss Sarah E. Hayes, who was born in Jefferson township, October 21, 1855, and has the distinction and honor of being the first white child born there. Her parents are William M. and Rachel (White) Hayes. The father's birth occurred in West Virginia, October 17, 1824, and the mother was born in New York on the 15th of September of the same year. They were married at Shabbona Grove, Illinois, and in October, 1843, became residents of this county. Mr. Hayes was the first white settler in Jefferson township. He entered land on West Fork Bottom and resided there throughout the remainder of his days. He broke the prairie with ox teams and performed all the arduous tasks necessary in the cultivation and development of the new farm. The neighbors were few and widely scattered. In 1864 Mr. Hayes was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died on the 12th of February, 1864. He long survived and passed away March 13, 1897. In politics he was a staunch republican, while his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which organization he took an active and helpful part. In the Hayes family were nine children: Elizabeth, who was born February 9, 1844, became the wife of John Dilts, of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Susan, born July 16, 1847, died November 6, 1863; Nancy Ann, born January 24, 1849, became the wife of Arlo Marchant, a civil war veteran, and died August 12, 1904; Miles, born December 4, 1850, died July 1, 1851; Calista A., born in April, 1852, became the wife of James Shorter, of Shell Rock, who was a Civil war soldier; James, born February 8, 1854, died on the 30th of September of the same year; Mrs. Nesbit; Benjamin D., born February 7, 1858, is now residing near Council Bluffs, Iowa; and Louisa, born August 30, 1860, is the wife of George Richardson, of Montana. Mrs. Nesbit was born in one of the old time log cabins but now resides in one of the finest homes in Jefferson township. The residence contains ten rooms and is finished in pine and oak with cypress floors. It is conveniently arranged and tastefully furnished and one of its charms is its warm hearted hospitality.

Mr. and Mrs. Nesbit have one child, Arthur B., who was born January 27, 1879, and is now a young man of thirty-five years. Mr. Nesbit exercises his right of franchise in support of the men

and measures of the republican party, and for the past twelve years he has been township clerk. He is a Mason, belonging to Compass Lodge, No. 239, A. F. & A. M., Parkersburg. His salient traits of character are such as commend him to the good-will and confidence of all, and as the years have passed by he has gained a prominent position among the substantial farmers and highly respected citizens of Jefferson township.

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### WILLIAM A. TOLL.

The student of history cannot carry his investigations far into the annals of Butler county without learning that the Toll family has played an active and prominent part in shaping the events which have contributed to the progress and upbuilding of this section of the state. The Tolls are, indeed, one of the worthy pioneer families and of this family William A. Toll is a worthy representative. He was born August 2, 1874, in Jefferson township, upon a farm adjoining his present place of residence, his parents being Frederick and Jane (Borchers) Toll, who are now living in Shell Rock. Seven of their children are yet living and of this number William A. Toll was the fourth in order of birth. With the exception of a year or so spent in Shell Rock he has always made his home in Jefferson township. He purchased the electric light plant at Shell Rock and operated it for about two years, when he returned to the farm. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, early receiving practical training in the best methods of tilling the soil. He took his place in the field almost as soon as old enough to handle the plow and gave his father the benefit of his services up to the time of his marriage, since which he has carried on general farming on his own account. He rents from his father a tract of land of two hundred acres on section 16 and also leases a quarter section elsewhere, so that he is extensively engaged in farming. His life is a busy and useful one, in which he is accomplishing substantial results, yet he never sacrifices the business interests and opportunities of others to his own advantage. In addition to cultivating the fields he makes live stock an important feature of his place and is now specializing in the raising of Hampshire hogs and fine-wool sheep. For a time he was associated with W. H. Betts in the ownership of fine race horses, continuing in that connection for ten years. Personally he owned

Echo, Jr., which won a five thousand dollar purse at Hamlin, Minnesota, with a pacing record of 2:7¼ in 1905. He only lost one race that season and on that occasion came out second. His horse, however, was sick at the time. Echo, Jr., proved to be one of the largest money winners in the United States that year. Mr. Toll also owned the sire of Echo, with a record of 2:19, and the dam of Sis Havock. He was likewise the owner of Bell Charleston, with a record of 2:17¼, and he has had many fine colts. From his boyhood he has been interested in fine horses and is never without some excellent specimens of the noble steed.

Mr. Toll was married February 19, 1902, the lady of his choice being Miss Myrtle Hewitt, who was born in Charles Mix county, South Dakota, August 29, 1882. Her sister Mabel was the first white child born in that county and they are daughters of William and Jennie (Kirk) Hewitt. Her father is deceased, but her mother still resides in Butler county. Mr. and Mrs. Toll lost one child, Byrl, who died in his fourth year. Mr. Toll was reared in the German Lutheran faith, and his wife is a member of the Congregational church and together they attend its services and contribute to its support. In politics he is a republican, and his worth as a citizen has been recognized in his selection for many township offices, the duties of which he has discharged with promptness and fidelity. He belongs to the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges at Shell Rock, and both he and his wife are connected with the Eastern Star and the Rebekahs. They have a very wide acquaintance in the county with which their circle of friends is almost coextensive. The hospitality of the best homes is gladly given them, and in their own home they maintain the cordial welcome of pioneer times. As people of sterling worth they are widely known, and as a business man Mr. Toll is reckoned with those who, while promoting individual interests, also contribute to the public welfare and prosperity.

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#### JOHN H. ESSMAN.

John H. Essman, a progressive and successful farmer of Madison township, owning and operating two hundred and forty acres of choice land on section 20, was born in Ogle county, Illinois, October 1, 1875. He is a son of Arend Essman, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work.

John H. Essman came to Butler county with his parents in 1879, and was reared upon his father's farm in Madison township, aiding in its operation until he reached manhood. After his marriage, which occurred in 1900, he located on a portion of his father's property and after renting this for some time purchased the farm, which he still owns. Upon it he has made a number of improvements, building a large two-story modern residence, a substantial barn, good cribs and convenient outbuildings. He has fenced and cross fenced his fields and has made his property one of the most attractive and valuable in the vicinity. In addition to general farming he engages also in raising graded cattle, good work horses and Duroc Jersey hogs, and he is widely known as a successful and progressive farmer and stock-raiser. He holds stock in the Butler County Telephone Company and also in the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company of Dumont.

On the 21st of February, 1900, in Franklin county, this state, Mr. Essman was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hirth, who was born in Grundy county, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Essman have become the parents of four children: Lulu, Emma M., Arnold R. and John L.

The parents are members of the Reformed church. Mr. Essman gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is interested in public affairs without being active as an office seeker. He is one of the well known farmers and business men of Madison township and has the confidence and esteem of the entire community.

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#### GEORGE H. MEAD.

George H. Mead, a well known and respected farmer, was born in a log cabin on the old family homestead on section 15, Ripley township, where he still resides, his natal day being September 13, 1870. His parents were Henry C. and Julia E. (Horton) Mead. The father's birth occurred at Swanton, Vermont, October 24, 1835, and he was the fourth son in a family of twelve children. His youthful days were spent upon a farm in New England and when a young man he came to the west, living for several years with his brother Norman, in Illinois. In the fall of 1858 he returned to Vermont, where he married Miss Emily S. Phillips, and soon afterward he took his bride to Carroll county, Illinois.

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MR. AND MRS. GEORGE H. MEAD



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where they lived until 1861 and then removed to Butler county, Iowa, settling on a farm near Aplington. Later they took up their abode on what became known as the old home farm near Butler Center. In August, 1864, Mrs. Mead passed away and on the 18th of April, 1868, Mr. Mead was again married, his second union being with Miss Julia E. Horton, who was born at Lewiston, Niagara county, New York, April 14, 1843, and was the youngest of the seven children of Ira and Mariette Horton. After attending the public schools she became a student in the college at Niagara Falls, making her home at that time with an elder sister. She afterward went to the home of another sister in Fennimore Center, Wisconsin, where she taught school for a few years before coming to Iowa. In the spring of 1864 she went to live with her sister, Mrs. E. C. Briggs, at Cedar Falls and taught school near there during the following winter. Following her marriage to Mr. Mead they traveled life's journey happily together for forty-one years. When he arrived in this county all he possessed was a yoke of cattle. When he died he was the owner of nineteen hundred and forty acres of valuable land, all in Ripley township with the exception of a quarter section in South Dakota. He bought and fed cattle, making most of his money in that way, and as he prospered he made judicious investments in real estate until his holdings were very extensive. After being in failing health for a number of years he retired from active business life, purchasing a pleasant home on Elm street in Allison, where his remaining days were passed. He always regretted the fact that he had to leave the farm, to which he made daily trips when able. He was one of the early settlers and valued citizens of the county and when he passed away there were not many living who had preceded him to this district. He met all the hardships and privations of pioneer life, yet as the years passed on worked his way steadily on toward the goal of success. He never neglected a duty, was loyal in citizenship, faithful in friendship and devoted to his family. He passed away in Allison, August 11, 1909. Later Mrs. Mead built a beautiful and commodious home in the city, equipped with all modern conveniences, and there she passed her declining days, her death occurring July 30, 1913. She had ever been most devoted to the welfare of her children and her example as a loving and tender wife and mother is one which may well be emulated. In the family were eight children: Mamie, who died in infancy; George H.; Etta, who died in early childhood; Clara, the wife of A. W. Johnson, of Allison; Clark, who was a twin of

Mrs. Johnson and died in childhood; Ada, the wife of Bert Richmond, of Ripley township; Alice, the wife of George Raisty, of the same township, and Rufus C., of Allison.

George H. Mead has spent his entire life upon the farm which he now owns and occupies save for a period of four years. His early experiences were those which usually fall to the farm lad. He assisted in the work of the fields, acquired a public-school education and enjoyed such sports as the boys of the neighborhood delighted in. With advancing years he assumed the duties of manhood and is now the owner of the old homestead of seven hundred and twenty acres, together with a quarter section that his father gave him before he died. The farm has been well improved by George H. Mead and is a stock farm, Mr. Mead being extensively engaged in buying, feeding and selling stock. In business affairs he shows sound judgment and unfaltering enterprise, and his success is growing year by year.

On the 9th of October, 1898, Mr. Mead was united in marriage to Miss Lola Wagner, who was born in Monroe, Wisconsin, December 26, 1880, and was six years of age when brought to this county by her parents, J. R. and Jane (Divan) Wagner, who now reside in Beaver township. Mr. and Mrs. Mead have three children: Hazel, born in May, 1899; Clifford, born October 9, 1902; and Gertrude, May 6, 1906. In politics Mr. Mead is a republican and has filled the office of township trustee but has never been an office seeker, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which, capably conducted, are bringing to him substantial success.

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### JOHN HOHL.

John Hohl, proprietor of the Wabeek Hotel at Shell Rock, is a native of Switzerland, his birth having occurred at Rehetobel, in the canton of Appenzell on the 8th of August, 1856. His parents were John Jacob and Anna (Kellenberger) Hohl, whose entire lives were spent in Rehetobel. The father was a manufacturer of curtains, conducting an extensive business which gave employment for about a half century to between one hundred and one hundred and fifty people. Not only in business affairs, but in other connections was he a prominent and representative citizen there. He acted as superintendent of the poor farm with-

out pay for about ten years, and for nineteen years he was a member of the city council. At his own expense and assisted by others, he built for the benefit of the public a boulevard that obtained a fine view of Lake Constance. He took a delight in helping the needy and was ever ready to extend the hand of assistance to those who needed it. His life was indeed one of worth and value to the community in which he lived, and his wife was a much loved woman because of her many good deeds and her splendid qualities of heart and mind. His death occurred in 1892 and his wife survived him for about a decade, both passing away when seventy years of age. Their children were seven in number: John Jacob, a lieutenant colonel and a prominent man of Switzerland, where he died in 1912; Mrs. Albertina Bishofberger, who died in 1873; John; Rose, who died in childhood; Mrs. Anna Banziger, living at Lichtensteig in the canton of St. Gall, Switzerland; Ernest, who died in infancy; and Arnold, of Rehetobel.

John Hohl is the only representative of the family in the new world. He was graduated from the state college at Appenzell when fifteen years of age and also attended an academy near Geneva, winning second honors at his graduation in 1875. On the 8th of August, 1876, he married Anna Katharina Schlapfer, who was born at Rehetobel, December 7, 1853, a daughter of J. J. Schlapfer.

In his youth and early manhood John Hohl worked with his father in his curtain and embroidery manufacturing establishment and afterward conducted a general store on his own account. This was destroyed by fire on the 21st of June, 1890, and Mr. Hohl lost all that he had.

Friends wanted to help him to start again, but he declined the assistance, not wishing to be under obligations to anyone and later he decided to come to the United States to here build up his fortunes anew. He planned that his wife should remain in Switzerland for two years and in 1891 he sailed for the United States as a steerage passenger, Denver, Colorado, being his destination. From New York he proceeded to Denver, traveling in an immigrant train that was four days en route. He spent eight months in that city, where he found plenty of friends but no work as times were hard. Later in the year he went to Bower, Nebraska, where he joined one of his old classmates of Switzerland, who was proprietor of German Nurseries. With him Mr. Hohl remained for nine months. He then went to Omaha, where he continued for a few weeks, but times were hard and business dull

there and he walked from Omaha to Stuart, Iowa, in January, 1893, when the thermometer was sixteen degrees below zero. He was four days and four nights in covering one hundred and five miles. On the way his companion stole some ducks, which they sold to a poultry house, but Mr. Hohl declined to take them or to help carry them or to receive a dollar from their sale, although he had not a cent in his pocket. Arriving at Stuart, Iowa, he secured a position as night clerk in a hotel and for seven years remained in the employ of the same man, his wife joining him there and also working in the same hotel. When his first employer sold out Mr. Hohl continued to work for his successor for three years, managing the hotel. In 1903 he entered the hotel business on his own account at Stuart and won success during the three years thus spent. He afterward remained at Waterloo, Iowa, for six months, conducting Hotel Royal, but his financial resources were not strong enough to meet the demands of the business and he removed to Greene, Butler county. He conducted the Commercial Hotel for nearly six years there, after which he sold out and came to Shell Rock on the 18th of June, 1912. The Wabeek Hotel here was remodeled and refitted according to modern ideas, and he has built up a now widely extended reputation for chicken dinners and for good service.

The hotel has become a favorite resort with the traveling public. Many automobile parties from Waterloo and other points, come here for the famous chicken dinners, which are served every day of the year. When Mr. Hohl left Greene, one of its newspapers, the Iowa Recorder, made the following comment: "John Hohl has gone and there is no one who can fill his place in the community. His motto, 'be cheerful' was his guide at all times, prosperity or adversity alike, and stick to it he would. Those 'marble cake' arms, that 'bald spot', a pinch of 'copenhagen', the 'elastic step', and the familiar greeting, all gone! John is now a resident of Shell Rock, where he and his good wife will run the hotel and they surely know the hotel business and we know they will please their patrons and make friends. We wish them success in every way."

Mr. Hohl is a big-hearted, generous-spirited man always ready to help the needy and nothing gives him more pleasure than to supply a meal to a hungry man who is without the means to pay for it. He is always ready to contribute to a worthy cause and is a public-spirited and loyal citizen. In politics he has been a staunch democrat since becoming a naturalized American citizen

in 1896. He had the pleasure of introducing the Hon. W. J. Bryan to an audience six months after becoming an American citizen, in the campaign of that year. Mr. Hohl has entertained at his hotel six of the governors of Iowa. He has contributed liberally to the church and has furthermore shown the spirit of helpfulness and generosity in his adoption of a little lad now known as Richard Hohl. The only children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hohl, twins, died in infancy. Although the early years of his residence brought to him hardships and difficulties, Mr. Hohl never regretted his determination to come to America and as the years have gone by has met with a fair measure of success. More than his material gain he has gained the regard, good-will and friendship of all with whom he has come in contact.

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### JOHN B. BURROUGHS.

John B. Burroughs is one of the honored veterans of the Civil war, who has to his credit active participation in many of the hotly contested battles that led to the preservation of the Union. In days of peace his attention has been given to general agricultural pursuits, and for forty-six years he has resided upon the farm which is now his home, on section 34, Jackson township. He was born in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, May 1, 1837, and is a son of Jeremiah and Betsy (Seal) Burroughs, who were also natives of that state, in which they spent their entire lives, the father there following the carpenter's trade. The family numbered six children: Joseph, who enlisted in a New Jersey regiment and was killed at the battle of Gettysburg; Mrs. Jane Rinehart, who died in New Jersey; John B.; Charles, who died in New Jersey; Samuel, who enlisted from Illinois near the close of the war and died in Tennessee while serving his country; and Robert.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of life for John B. Burroughs in his boyhood and youth, which were passed in his native state. As he approached manhood, however, he began considering the subject of a life work and of a favorable location and resolved to try his fortune in the middle west. In 1859, therefore, he left New Jersey and made his way to DeKalb county, Illinois, where he was living at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war. On the 15th of June, 1861, he

offered his services to the government and was for three years a member of Company D, Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. For about a month he was in Missouri chasing Price. The regiment arrived in Fort Donelson a half hour after his surrender, but participated in the battle of Shiloh and in other engagements. Mr. Burroughs was ever a brave and loyal soldier, faithfully discharging every duty that devolved upon him.

With the close of the war he returned to Illinois and worked as a farm hand until his marriage. He then came to Iowa in 1867 and took up his abode upon his present farm. He first purchased eighty acres of land and when he had succeeded in making a final payment on the place he purchased another eighty acres. Again, when his indebtedness on that was discharged, he bought other tracts and eventually became the owner of six hundred and eighty acres of rich and arable land. He has a quarter section in Jackson township and two hundred and forty acres across the road in Jefferson township. There were no improvements upon the original tract of eighty acres when it came into his possession, but with characteristic energy he began the development of the farm, erected substantial buildings, planted his crops, divided the place into fields of convenient size by well kept fences and secured the latest improved machinery for planting and harvesting. He has always carried on stock-raising in connection with general farming and both branches of his business have proven profitable.

In Illinois, in 1866, Mr. Burroughs was united in marriage to Miss Susan Buck, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1844 and when a young lady went to Illinois. The children of this marriage were ten in number: Elizabeth, the wife of Pierce Thompson, of Shell Rock; John, who died at the age of fifteen years; Frank, of Minnesota; May, a resident of California; Robert, whose home is in Jackson township; Alfred, also of the same township; Vivian, the wife of Ray Randall, of Dayton township; Margaret, the wife of John Martin, of Nora Springs; Grace, the wife of Frank Booker, of Rochester, Minnesota; and Lela, at home.

Mr. Burroughs exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party. He has held some school offices, but has never been ambitious for political preferment. He belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic at Allison and thus maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades. His is a creditable life record, and he has been as true and loyal to his country in days of peace as when he followed the old flag

upon the battlefields of the south. His life on the whole has been quietly passed, but has been characterized by many substantial qualities, including persistency of purpose, laudable ambition and honesty in all business relations.

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### JOHN COSTER.

Agricultural interests found a worthy representative in John Coster, living on section 22, Jefferson township. He was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, March 3, 1847, his parents being John and Louise (Grove) Coster, whose destination at the time of their emigration to the new world was McHenry county, Illinois, where they arrived in 1860. The father died in that state, but the mother long survived and passed away in Butler county, Iowa, in 1899, at the home of her son, John, when she had reached the advanced age of seventy-nine years. She had five children, three born of her first marriage and two of the second union. Henry Yarcow lives at Shell Rock. Minnie Yarcow became the wife of John Porman, but both died in this county. Dora married John Wilson and both are deceased. Fred Coster remained in the fatherland and there passed away. John is the subject of this review.

John Coster was a lad of thirteen years at the time of the emigration to the new world, and after living in Illinois for nine years he came to Butler county in 1869, when a young man of twenty-two. He has since resided in Jefferson township upon the farm which is now his home, with the exception of one year. He was actively engaged in general agricultural pursuits until about ten years ago, when he retired from active life, although he still makes his home on the farm. He is the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land, all in one body, and for about thirty-two years he was extensively engaged in raising cattle and hogs. He made a specialty of Duroc Jersey hogs and won prizes and sweepstakes at the local fairs. In the early days he operated a threshing machine for fifteen years, and the various branches of his business were so conducted that he gained substantial and well deserved success, being now numbered among the men of affluence in his county. A little village which sprang up in his neighborhood was called Coster and a postoffice was established there, but



it was discontinued when the rural free delivery route was instituted.

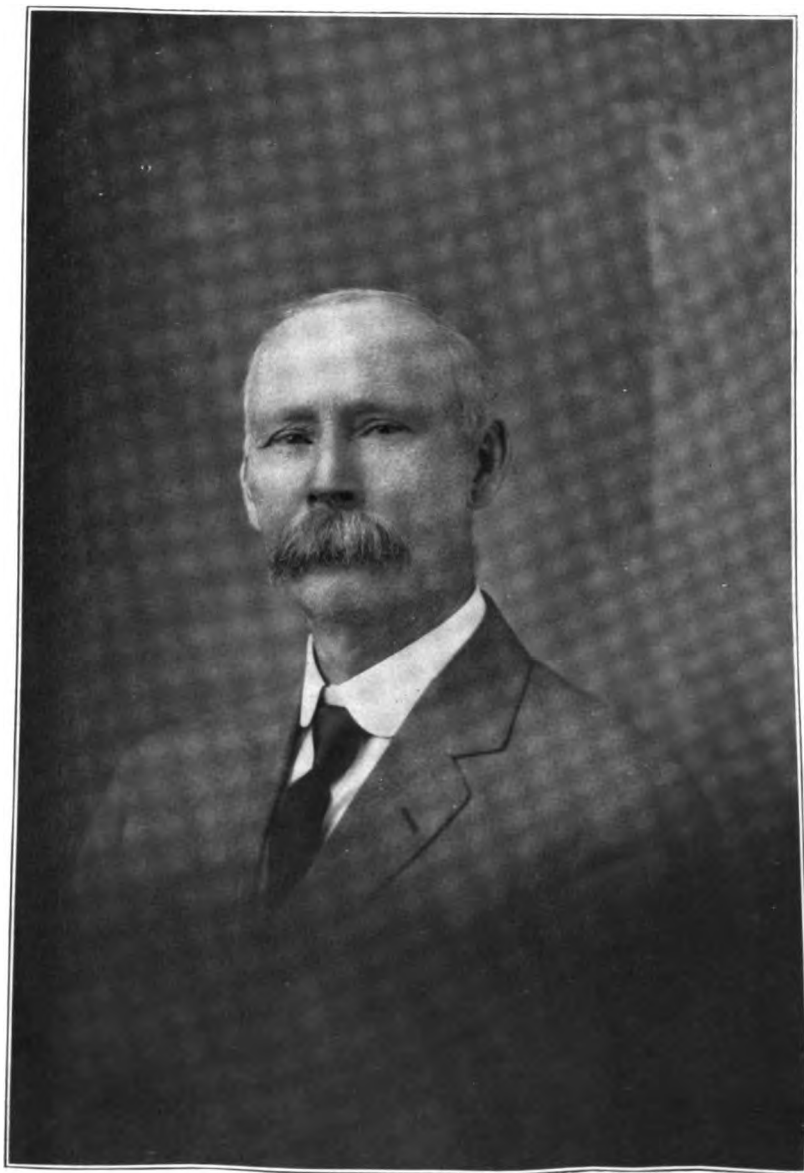
On December 22, 1867, Mr. Coster was married to Miss Minnie Stamer, who was born in Schwerin, Germany, in 1844, and came alone to the United States. They became parents of two sons and a daughter: Henry W., living at Shell Rock; John, of Muscatine, Iowa; and Mary, the wife of Newton Ranmega, of Coster.

The parents are members of the United Evangelical church of Coster, and for twenty-seven years Mr. Coster has been superintendent of the Sunday school and a most active worker in the church. His political indorsement is given to the republican party, and for eleven consecutive years he filled the office of township trustee. Then a period elapsed in which he was not in office, but at the present time his incumbency in that position covers four years. He is much interested in everything tending to stimulate agricultural development and progress among the farmers and stock-raisers and for eight years has been president of the Butler County Fair Association. He is also interested in the Farmers' State Bank of Shell Rock. When he came to Iowa, accompanied by his wife and one child, his possessions consisted of eighty dollars in money, three horses and two cows. He at first rented eighty acres of land, which he cultivated for two years, during which period he carefully saved his earnings and then bought eighty acres of the farm upon which he now resides, paying seventeen dollars per acre. To this he has added as his financial resources have increased until he is now the owner of a valuable property, which is the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy and thrift.

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### THOMAS A. GOUGH.

More than a century ago Washington said that "agriculture is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man," and this statement has found verification in all the ages. Upon the successful tilling of the soil depends all other business activity and this country draws her wealth greatly from her agricultural states, chief among which is Iowa—the corn center of America. Among the worthy representatives of farming interests in Butler county is Thomas A. Gough, who is living on section 4, West Point township.



THOMAS A. GOUGH

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He was born in Jackson township, March 18, 1860, and is a son of William and Susannah (Walsh) Gough. The father, born in England in July, 1817, died in May, 1907. The mother, born in Ireland about 1825, came to the United States when twenty-five years of age, while William Gough arrived in this country at the age of thirty-five. They were married in Illinois and came to Iowa nearly sixty years ago, settling first in Jones county, whence they came to Butler county. They had but one child at that time, the others all being born in this county, where Mr. and Mrs. Gough spent their remaining days, their last years being passed in retirement in Bristow, where Mrs. Gough departed this life in 1901, at the age of seventy-six. They had eight children: Caroline Parmelia, the wife of J. W. Kephart, of Dumont, Iowa; William Clark, of Yellow Medicine county, Minnesota; George Walker, living in Clarksville; Joseph Jeremiah, of West Point township; Thomas A.; Elizabeth Jane, the wife of B. H. Corey, of Bristow; James Edward, who died at the age of three and a half years; and a daughter who died in infancy.

Thomas A. Gough has known no other home than Butler county, his entire life being passed within its borders, and thus for fifty-three years he has been a witness of its growth and development, taking an active part in all that has pertained to its progress. He has carried on farming and stock-raising and has engaged in buying cattle, making shipments to Chicago for the past quarter of a century. In addition to his farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 4, West Point township, he owns one hundred and sixty acres in Yellow Medicine county, Minnesota, and he also has gold mining interests in Colorado. For forty-two years he has lived on the place which is still his home. There were only three houses within sight when he came here, although one could look for miles across the prairie. No roads had been laid out and the work of civilization and development seemed scarcely begun, yet Butler county was even then becoming fast settled by an enterprising class of citizens, who soon converted her wild prairies into productive fields. The splendid appearance of Mr. Gough's farm is attributable entirely to his own labors. He fenced his land and erected all of the present buildings upon his place, while his father set out a grove and Thomas Gough planted an orchard of three hundred trees. The grove consists of maple, willow and cottonwoods and adds much to the pleasing appearance of the farm. Mr. Gough has long been numbered among the leading stockmen of the county, feeding about three carloads of cattle each winter. He has

two silos and an immense cattle shed, sixty by sixty-eight feet, with twenty-four foot center posts. There are also two wings and thus the buildings and equipments upon the place furnish ample shelter for hay and stock. None of the accessories of the model farm are lacking and not the least of the elements which contribute to his success is Mr. Gough's ability to correctly judge of the value of the cattle which he buys, being seldom if ever at error in matters of judgment. He is likewise president of the West Point Mutual Telephone Company and is a most progressive business man, keeping abreast of the times in every particular.

On the 17th of November, 1892, Mr. Gough was united in marriage to Miss Alma E. Early, who was born in Muscatine county, Iowa, September 15, 1864, a daughter of Thomas Mason and Rhoda (Overturf) Early, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Pennsylvania. They were married in Muscatine in 1863 and now reside in Allison. Mr. and Mrs. Gough had six children but Galen, the first born, died in infancy. The others are Esther, Marion, Everett, Naomi and Glenn.

Politically Mr. Gough is a republican and is now serving as one of the trustees of his township, while for six years he was township clerk. For many years he has been a member of the school board and is still acting in that capacity. He was also assessor of the township for two years and has discharged every official duty with promptness and fidelity. The guiding principles of his life are found in his faith as a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, his membership being with the congregation in Bristow, where he is serving as a church trustee.

As a pioneer settler Mr. Gough is familiar with the history of this part of the state and can relate many interesting incidents of the early days. His father was a pioneer Methodist Episcopal preacher and circuit rider, who rode all over the country, preaching in isolated communities at a period when the Indians were almost as numerous as the white settlers in this part of the state. At times the people would become greatly alarmed at the rumor that the Indians were uprising and Thomas A. Gough can distinctly remember the Indians coming to his first home. Wild game and wild animals were numerous in those days, the father frequently killing catamounts and wild cats. Deer were very plentiful and would eat out of the corn crib upon the Gough farm, while all kinds of feathered game were to be had in abundance. The methods of farm work at that time were very dissimilar to those of the present. Mr. Gough can well remember the old time farm

machinery and recalls with pleasure the progress that has been made from the days of the log cabin with the puncheon floor to the present period of prosperity, when he, like many other substantial farmers, occupies a modern and attractive home, supplied with all of the conveniences and comforts known at the present day. His long residence here has brought him a wide acquaintance and his sterling characteristics have gained him many friends.

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### MORRISON A. TAYLOR, M. D.

Laudable ambition has prompted the efforts of Dr. Morrison A. Taylor, a capable, conscientious and successful physician of Clarksville, who holds to high professional standards and has been accorded a liberal patronage. He was born about one and a half miles east of Clarksville, on the 2d of December, 1857, and is a son of James R. and Esther Ann (Cook) Taylor, the former born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1829, and the latter in Fountain county, Indiana, in 1830.

The Taylor family was founded by the youngest son of an English earl, who about the close of the sixteenth century removed with members of the family to Scotland. Representatives of the family afterward went to the north of Ireland, and two brothers later crossed the Atlantic to Massachusetts in colonial days. They were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. The maternal grandfather of Dr. Taylor was Dr. John Koch, who came from the Rheinlands of Germany. He was an eminent scholar and a distinguished physician. He settled in Pennsylvania, but afterward removed to Indiana, where he purchased a farm, upon which his remaining days were passed. His religious faith was that of the Universalist church. He changed the name from Koch to Cook. His wife was in her maidenhood a Miss Mounts, and was descended from French Huguenot ancestry. Their daughter Esther Ann Cook has in her possession the deed to the old homestead here, signed by Franklin Pierce. She became the wife of James R. Taylor. They were both reared in Fountain county, and in 1855 they became residents of Butler county, Iowa, settling on a farm in Butler township, whereon the father spent his remaining days. He passed away in July, 1905, and his widow now resides in Clarksville. He was the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of good farm land, which he secured from the govern-

ment and forty acres of timber. When it came into his possession not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made upon it, but he converted it into rich and productive fields, and it became a valuable property. In early life he had learned the trades of millwright and carpenter and joiner under the direction of an uncle in Ohio and Indiana and after coming to this state he built, in connection with Asa Low, the first bridge across Shell Rock river at Clarksville. He erected many houses and barns in the town and surrounding country and also built a mill here. His life was a very busy one and prominently connected him with the agricultural and industrial interests of the county. He was a consistent and earnest worker in the Christian church throughout his entire life, being numbered among its most valuable members. His early political allegiance was given to the whig party, and on its dissolution he joined the ranks of the new republican party, with which he was identified throughout his remaining days. He did not care for nor seek office, however, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs, which were extensive and important and made him one of the leading citizens of Butler county. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were the parents of four children: Morrison A.; John M., of Mason City, Iowa, who is married and has a son and daughter; Priscilla, who became the wife of Gordon McDonald and died in Louisiana in September, 1898, leaving six children; and Rosa E., the wife of L. M. Valentine, of Mason City.

Dr. Morrison A. Taylor, whose name introduces this record, began his education in the district schools and had attended high school before he entered the Breckenridge Institute at Decorah, Iowa, in 1880. Following his course there he returned home and taught through the winter. In the fall of 1888 he went to Valparaiso, Indiana, and entered the Northern Indiana Normal School but was taken ill and returned home before he completed the course. He says he received the greatest inspiration of his life while a student there. He afterward taught special lines at Breckenridge Institute and later became principal of the school at Aplington, this county. He was also a teacher at Geneva, Iowa, and was principal of the Riceville schools and for three years he was principal of the schools at Alexandria, South Dakota. He regarded all this as an initial step to other professional labor, for it was his desire to become a member of the medical fraternity and with that end in view he entered the State University at Iowa in 1894 and was graduated from its medical de-

partment with the class of 1897. He has since practiced medicine, in which he has displayed notable ability, but he is also an inventor and is devoting much of his time to his patents, his mechanical ingenuity finding expression in many improved devices.

In 1898 Dr. Taylor was married to Miss Manie A. Axtell, who was born at Strawberry Point, Iowa, in March, 1876. She is a daughter of Augustus E. and Martha (Bartlett) Axtell. Her father was born in Massachusetts, September 29, 1822, and was a son of Daniel and Jane (Wellman) Axtell, the former born February 22, 1787, and the latter October 26, 1791. Augustus E. Axtell went to Ohio in his childhood days and in that state was married to Martha Bartlett, who was born in Vermont in 1832, and went to Ohio with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Axtell removed to Clayton county, Iowa, in 1857, and the farm which he then purchased remained his home until his death, which occurred in August, 1906. To him and his wife were born five children and by a former marriage he had three children. Dr. and Mrs. Taylor have three daughters: Roba Hellene, born in December, 1899; Hester Miriam, born in South Dakota in 1903; and Barbara Gretchen, in 1906.

Dr. Taylor is a progressive in politics. He holds firmly to the principles in which he believes and does not hesitate to express his honest convictions. He belongs to Butler Lodge, No. 94, A. F. & A. M., of which his father was a charter member and the junior deacon. Dr. Taylor likewise has membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias lodge. His life principles have their root in his belief as a member of the Christian church, in which he has served as deacon, as a member of the official board and as chorister. For thirty years he has been superintendent of the Sunday school and, in fact, is deeply interested in every department of the church work, doing all in his power to further its growth and extend its influence.

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### FRANK BROWN.

Frank Brown, a well known farmer of Beaver township, was born in Blackhawk county, Iowa, March 29, 1877. He is a son of Hiram and Margaretta (Winch) Brown, the former born in Connecticut in 1839 and the latter in Massachusetts in the same



year. The parents afterward moved to Iowa, settling in Blackhawk county, where the father engaged in farming. He passed away in 1904 and is survived by his wife, who makes her home in Waterloo. In their family were seven children: Eugene, who has passed away; Henry; Walter and Anna, deceased; Frank, of this review; Leonard; and Sherberne.

Frank Brown attended district school in Blackhawk county until he was sixteen years of age and afterward worked as a farm laborer until he was twenty-nine. He then spent about three years on his father's farm, after which he moved to Waterloo. He remained there for one year and then in 1909 came to Butler county, where he purchased the farm on section 29, Beaver township, whereon he has since resided. He engages in general farming and also feeds stock, keeping twenty-eight head of cattle, fifty hogs and four horses. In addition to this he operates a dairy and has made this branch of his activities important and profitable.

On the 29th of March, 1905, in Waterloo, Mr. Brown married Miss Olla Fay Sells, a daughter of Nathan G. and Iva (Ingalls) Sells, pioneer settlers in Butler county. Mr. and Mrs. Brown became the parents of seven children: Leslie C.; Bernice I., who has passed away; Eugene W.; Russell H.; Mildred H.; Iva M.; and John G.

Mr. Brown is a member of the Methodist church and a republican in his political beliefs. He is held in high regard in Butler county and has an extensive acquaintance within its borders.

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### W. H. H. FLEEK.

W. H. H. Fleek has many claims to the esteem and respect of his fellow citizens, for he is not only a veteran of the Civil war but also an early settler in Butler county and a man who has contributed in substantial measure to the agricultural growth and development of his locality. He was born in LaFayette, Indiana, July 4, 1841, and when he was thirteen years of age went with his uncle, E. T. Fleek, to Green county, Wisconsin, and there grew to manhood on the latter's farm. On the 22d of April, 1861, he joined Company C, Third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and went into camp at Fond du Lac. After drilling for some time the regiment was sent east and joined the army of the Poto-

mac, later taking part in General Banks' retreat. Mr. Fleek was taken prisoner and sent to Bell Island, where he was held for three months and then paroled. He rejoined his command at Antietam and participated afterward in the battle of Gettysburg. His regiment was sent to New York city at the time of the draft riots there and was later transferred to Tennessee, where it took part in the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. Upon the close of his first term Mr. Fleek reenlisted and after a thirty-day furlough rejoined his regiment at Fayetteville. He took part in the Atlanta campaign, during which there was a fight or a skirmish every day for over a month, and after the fall of Atlanta he joined Sherman on his march to the sea. Before leaving the city he was detailed orderly and served in that capacity until the close of the war, his regiment taking part in the grand review at Washington. Afterward Mr. Fleek returned home on a veteran's furlough, receiving his honorable discharge at Madison, Wisconsin, in 1865.

With a creditable military record Mr. Fleek returned to Green county and located on a one hundred acre farm which he operated and developed for some years, after which he sold the property and moved to Iowa, settling in Butler county in 1877. He purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 21, Dayton township, and has since carried on the work of improving and developing this property, which he has made one of the finest and most productive in the township. Mr. Fleek engages in general farming and stock-raising, keeping a high grade of horses, cattle and hogs.

While home on a furlough, on the 22d of February, 1864, at Brodhead, Wisconsin, Mr. Fleek was united in marriage to Miss Sarah M. Woodling, who was born in Indiana, a daughter of Francis Woodling, a pioneer in Green county, Wisconsin. Mrs. Fleek passed away in California, April 15, 1906, leaving four children: J. G. and Marion, of Los Angeles, California; Ruth, the wife of Alvin Codd, also of Los Angeles; and Gertrude, a resident of California. Mr. and Mrs. Fleek lost one son and three daughters. Ty grew to maturity and married George Freeman. Her death occurred in 1897. Bertha passed away in Highland, California. Ord C. met death by accident in Highland. Belle married William Brown and resided for a number of years in Waterloo, where her death occurred.

Mr. Fleek cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864 and has supported every republican nominee for president since that

time. Fraternally he is a Master Mason and a member of the Grand Army post of Greene. He is interested in the betterment of the community where he has so long resided and has borne an important part in promoting general progress. He is a man of many sterling traits of character, capable in business, progressive in citizenship and at all times trustworthy and reliable.

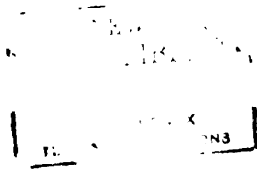
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### FRANK BEACH.

Frank Beach, living retired in Dumont after many years of close connection with agricultural interests of Franklin and Butler counties, was born in Peoria county, Illinois, December 26, 1842. He was reared upon a farm in that locality and acquired his education in the district schools. In 1862 he enlisted in Company K, Eighty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was sent with his regiment to Louisville, Kentucky, later taking part in the campaign after General Bragg. He was honorably discharged on account of disability and returned to Illinois, where after recovering his health he engaged in farming for two years. In 1866 he sold his land in Peoria county and moved to Iowa, making the journey with teams and coming directly to Butler county, where he located on an eighty acre tract of wild land, which he had previously purchased. Soon afterward, however, he went to Franklin county, where he rented land, operating this for one year and at the same time breaking the soil upon his property in Madison township and building upon it a comfortable home. Afterward he took up his residence upon this place and while carrying forward the work of its development engaged in breaking land for his neighbors, receiving as a compensation for this service the first two crops grown upon the farm. Mr. Beach afterward sold his land in Madison township and bought two hundred and forty acres in Franklin county which he broke, cleared and improved, from time to time adding to his holdings until he accumulated four hundred acres of valuable land, which he still owns. He engaged in general farming and stock-raising upon this property until 1908, when he rented the tract and moved into Dumont, where he has since lived retired. He has valuable property interests here, owning a number of residence lots upon which he has erected two dwellings.



**FRANK BEACH**



On the 29th of December, 1864, Mr. Beach was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Elsey, a native of Essex, England, and a daughter of Robert Elsey, who emigrated to America and located at Rome, New York, where he passed away. His wife survived him and later moved to Elgin, Illinois, where Mrs. Beach was reared and educated. Mr. and Mrs. Beach became the parents of four children: Lydia, who died at the age of fourteen months; Lillian, the wife of William Brandenburg, a merchant of Kesley; Frank W., who lives at home, and Emily C., the deceased wife of Fred Foote, by whom she had two children.

Mr. Beach has given his political allegiance to the republican party since he cast his first ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He has been very active in public affairs and has been honored by his fellow citizens by election to various positions of public trust and responsibility, his official record being characterized by the accomplishment of a great deal of important work. He was for four years assessor of Madison township and while a resident of Franklin county was identified with the work of the school board for a quarter of a century. He served for two years as justice of the peace in Franklin county and for three years in Dumont. He has been a delegate to numerous county conventions both in Butler and Franklin counties. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Dumont, and Mr. Beach is a charter member of the Dumont lodge of the Knights of Pythias and belongs to the Grand Army post at Ackley. He has been well known in this part of Iowa for many years, and his integrity and ability have gained him the respect and confidence of all who have had business or personal relations with him. He is an own cousin of General McPherson of military fame and moreover, he, himself, is entitled to a place in this volume as a veteran of the Civil war, to whom the country owes a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

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### PHILIP LOOMER.

“The weary wheels of life at length stood still” for Philip Loomer on the 3d of January, 1914. He had reached the advanced age of eighty-seven years, thirty-five years of which time had been spent in Butler county, and during much of that period he was actively engaged in the development and improve-

ment of a farm of two hundred and seventy acres, but about fifteen years ago retired to Clarksville. He was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, October 6, 1826, a son of Benjamin and Eunice (Jess) Loomer, both of whom were natives of Nova Scotia, the latter of French Huguenot descent. The Loomer family comes of English ancestry, and representatives of the name after living for some time in New England removed to Nova Scotia just prior to the Revolutionary war. In 1841 Benjamin Loomer removed with his family to Wisconsin. They sailed from Nova Scotia to Boston, reaching their destination only after twenty-one days because of strong head winds. From that point they proceeded by rail to Norwich, Connecticut, thence by steamboat to New York, up the Hudson to Albany, through the Erie canal to Buffalo, by steamboat to Milwaukee and thence to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where they located on government land. It was a wild and undeveloped tract, not a furrow having been turned or an improvement made. The father was not long permitted to enjoy this new home, his death there occurring in 1847. In 1878 the mother went to Florida with her two sons-in-law, and afterward removed to Oswego, Kansas, where she died in 1879.

Philip Loomer was the only survivor in a family of three sons and two daughters. He was a youth of fifteen at the time of the removal to Wisconsin and later began farming there on his own account, after purchasing a quarter section of land in Columbia county at one dollar per acre. He carried on farming in that district until 1878 and then sold out, removing to Butler county, Iowa. Here he purchased a farm four miles east of Clarksville, comprising two hundred and seventy acres of arable land. Fifteen years ago he retired, taking up his abode in Clarksville.

Mr. Loomer was twice married. On the 24th of March, 1851, he married Mary Ann Cass, who died October 17, 1863. They were the parents of four children, two of whom died ere the mother's death. Albert, born October 27, 1852, is a resident of Minnesota. He has six sons, all of whom are married, and a daughter, who remains at home. Ella Jane, the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Loomer, died at the age of eight years. Fred died at the age of forty years, leaving a widow and four children. Charles, the youngest of the family, was but two years of age at the time of his demise. On the 13th of March, 1864, Mr. Loomer married Lucretia Smith Cass, a sister of his first wife. She was born in New Hampshire, June 10, 1838, and was but

twelve years of age when she went to Wisconsin with her parents. The children of this marriage are as follows: Eugene, who died at the age of two years; Arthur, living in Armstrong, Iowa; Florence, the wife of George Cruthers of Waverly, Iowa; Lillian, the wife of Homer Smith of Brightwood, D. C.; Mary, the wife of N. O. Edwards, of Butler township; Lester, living on his father's farm; Jennie, the wife of Arthur Moore, of Butler township; and Addie Eugenie, the wife of W. C. Shepard, of Allison. Mr. Loomer had twenty-six grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. There are four granddaughters and six grandsons who are married.

Mr. Loomer was entitled to wear the Grand Army button and was a member of the James Butler post, at Clarksville. He enlisted in December, 1864, as a member of Company I, Forty-fourth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of hostilities. That honorable principles were salient features in his life is indicated in the earnest support which he always gave the temperance cause and the interests of religion. He voted with the prohibition party and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and his was an earnest Christian life. He occupied a large, fine home in Clarksville, attractively located and surrounded with magnificent shade trees. Here he passed the evening of his days in quiet contentment and enjoyed the honor and respect of his fellow townsmen, because of his well spent life, which was indeed an example worthy of emulation.

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### FRED WILLIAM SCHNEE.

Among the able and prosperous farmers of Coldwater township and among Butler county's most progressive and successful native sons is numbered Fred William Schnee, who owns and operates a fine property of eighty acres on section 21. He was born in this township, December 6, 1876, and is a son of Otto and Wilhelmina (Becker) Schnee, natives of Germany. The father came to America when he was a young man and settled immediately in Bremer county, this state, where he purchased land and operated a farm for some time. He moved to Butler county in 1865 and bought the farm in Coldwater township which is now owned by his son. Here he made his home until his death, which occurred in 1879. His wife survived him many years, passing



away in 1911. In their family were eight children, five sons and three daughters.

Fred W. Schnee was reared upon his father's farm and acquired his education in the district schools. From his early childhood he assisted with the operation of the homestead and became in time an able and practical agriculturist. Upon the death of his mother he bought the interests of the other heirs and succeeded to the homestead, which he has since operated. To the buildings already upon the property he has added a modern residence, a barn and a crib, and he has made other improvements, having set out an orchard and a grove of forest and evergreen trees which protect the west and north sides of his house. Mr. Schnee raises high-grade cattle and hogs and Norman horses and his stock-raising and general farming interests are extensive and important. He is a stockholder in the Greene Cooperative Creamery Association and in the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company, and his ability is recognized and respected in business circles.

In Coldwater township, on the 22d of April, 1908, Mr. Schnee was united in marriage to Miss Ida Tinnemann, who was born, reared and educated in Butler county and who formerly engaged in teaching. Mr. and Mrs. Schnee have become the parents of a daughter, Martha Marie. Mrs. Schnee is a member of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Schnee is connected fraternally with the Knights of Pythias. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party, but has never held office, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his business affairs, which are capably conducted and have brought him a gratifying measure of success.

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### ANDREW J. McELHANEY.

Agricultural pursuits have found a worthy representative in Andrew J. McElhaney, who resides on section 30, Butler township. Busily employed in the development of his farm, he has little time for outside interests, and the success, which is rewarding his labors, is the direct result of his industry and enterprise. He was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, January 13, 1840, a son of George and Ann (Bolen) McElhaney. The father was also a native of the same county, born September 6, 1818, while the mother's birth occurred in Bedford county, Pennsylvania,

October 15, 1813. She was the daughter of George Bolen, a soldier in the Revolutionary war, who served at Valley Forge and went through all the hardships of that memorable winter. He, too, was a native of the Keystone state, as was the paternal grandfather of our subject, who came of Scotch parentage. Mr. and Mrs. George McElhaney remained in Pennsylvania until the fall of 1852, when they removed to DeKalb county, Illinois, and there resided until 1857. In that year they settled in Bremer county, Iowa, and in 1858 came to Butler county, locating on a farm near Butler Center. Subsequently they went to Nebraska, where Mr. McElhaney died about fifteen years ago. His widow now makes her home with her daughter in Waverly, Iowa, and she was one hundred years of age on the 15th of October, 1913. While in the east George McElhaney was a boatman on the canal but after removing to the west followed farming. To him and his wife were born eight children: Andrew J.; Mrs. Mary Ann McGregor, of Butler county; Mrs. Sarah Sewell, of Waverly, Iowa; Washington, who is living in South Dakota; Martha, a resident of Omaha, Nebraska; John; Jane, whose home is in Illinois; and James, of Wheatland, Wyoming. He served for three years in the Civil war, enlisting at Clarksville as a member of Company I, Third Iowa Infantry.

A similar spirit of patriotism prompted Andrew J. McElhaney to go to the defense of his country during the dark hour in its history. He enlisted on the 24th of May, 1861, as a member of Company B, Fifteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until June 27, 1865, being mustered out at Springfield, Illinois. He was captured at Moon Station, Georgia, and held as a prisoner of war for seven months, being incarcerated at Andersonville. It was not until the 29th of April, 1865, following the surrender of General Lee, that he was released. He participated in many of the most hotly contested engagements, including the battles of Shiloh, Fort Donelson, Corinth, Bighatchie and the siege of Vicksburg, beside many others of less importance. The first year of his military experience was spent in Missouri, following Price. Later he was with the army of the west under Generals Grant and Sherman. He went through all of the experiences incident to army life, never wavered in the face of danger and by reason of his courage and loyalty, returned home with a most creditable military record.

When the war was over, Mr. McElhaney began farming in DeKalb county, Illinois, where he remained for three years and

then came to Butler county. He has resided upon his present place for more than thirty-six years, having sixty-three acres on sections 19 and 30, devoted to general farming and stock-raising. His business affairs are capably conducted, and the neat and thrifty appearance of his place indicates his careful supervision and progressive methods.

In September, 1865, almost immediately after his return from the army, Mr. McElhaney was married to Miss Elida Schollmaker, who was born in Boone county, Illinois, June 13, 1846, and is a daughter of Nicholas and Priscilla (Strawn) Schollmaker. Her father was a native of New York, and her mother of Canada, and both died in Clarksville. Mr. and Mrs. McElhaney have six children: Fred Albert, now living in Bremer county; Mrs. Julia Surfess, who died, leaving one child; George, of Nebraska; May, the wife of Bert Sturdevant, of South Dakota; Myrtle, the wife of Ed Roberts, living on a farm adjoining her father's; and John, who operates the old home farm.

In politics Mr. McElhaney has always been a stalwart republican, exercising his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the party, yet he has never sought nor held office. His religious faith is evidenced in his membership in the Christian church. This has been the guiding spirit of his life and has made him one of the respected citizens of Butler county, his integrity of character being acknowledged by all.

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#### W. H. HICKLE.

W. H. Hickle, one of the substantial residents of Clarksville, has resided in the town for the past twelve years, prior to which time he was actively engaged in farming. He also bought and shipped stock for several years, and his carefully managed business affairs brought him a gratifying measure of success, that now enables him to live retired. He was born in Ross county, Ohio, December 10, 1842, a son of John and Hester Ann (Van Gundy) Hickle. Their family numbered seven children, of whom six are now living. Two of their sons, Jacob H. and John Alfred, enlisted from this county for active service in the Civil war, the former being a member of the Thirty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry and the latter of the Eighth Iowa Cavalry.

W. H. Hickle, the second in order of birth, was brought to this county by his parents from McLean county, Illinois, the family home having previously been in the vicinity of Bloomington, Illinois, for about eight or ten years. They arrived in Butler county on the 10th of May, 1856, and cast their lot with its pioneer settlers. Much of the land was still unclaimed and uncultivated, and the work of progress and improvement seemed scarcely begun. In June the prairies were starred with a million wild flowers and in December were covered with one dazzling and unbroken sheet of snow. One could ride for miles without coming to a fence to impede his progress, but as the years passed on the work of development was carried forward by a resolute, energetic band of pioneer settlers and Butler county has been brought to its present state of progress and improvement.

W. H. Hickle was fourteen years of age at the time of the removal to this county and was here reared to share with the family in the arduous duties of frontier life. After attaining his majority he began farming on his own account, remaining at home until the time of his marriage, after which he farmed in Jackson township until he put aside business cares. He had one hundred and twenty acres in the home place and at different times owned other tracts of land. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he also engaged in buying and shipping stock for several years and his business affairs were so capably and successfully managed that he now finds it possible to live retired without further recourse to labor, in order to provide himself and family with the necessities and comforts of life.

In 1867 Mr. Hickle was married to Mrs. Lydia Wilcox Henderson, a widow, who was born in New York, and at an early day became a resident of Dubuque county, Iowa. She died in Butler county, May 2, 1905, at the age of fifty-six years. There were three children of that marriage: Frank, who died in infancy; May, who died at the age of two years; and Stella, the wife of George Atkinson, of Washington Springs, South Dakota, by whom she has two children, Lucile and Mary Ranelda.

In political views Mr. Hickle has always been an earnest republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, and he cast his first presidential vote for President Lincoln at his second election. Mr. Hickle has been called upon to fill a number of township offices including that of clerk and trustee, and he has also served in a number of school offices, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart champion. His religious faith is

that of the Baptist church, and his life has been guided by its teachings. He is regarded as one of the substantial and respected citizens of Clarksville and well deserves mention among the representative men of this county, in which he has now lived for fifty-seven years, his memory forming a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present, while in the work of general development he has always borne his part.

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### REV. CONRAD WELTNER.

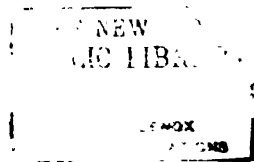
Rev. Conrad Weltner has for the past thirty years been pastor of the Lutheran St. John congregation of Vilmar and is also at the head of a new church which he has recently completed at Allison. He was born at Melsungen, Hesse-Cassel, Germany, on the 12th of April, 1862, and was baptized on the 30th of the same month. His parents, Martin and Margaretha (Riemann) Weltner, were married on the 19th of December, 1858, and became the parents of four children, namely: William, who acts as pastor of a church at Lizard, Iowa; Conrad, of this review; Carl; and Helen.

After his confirmation Conrad Weltner entered the Latin school of Pastor Kloeffer in his native city and a year later became a student in the Mission Institute of Metropolitan Vilmar at Melsungen. In June, 1880, he emigrated to the United States with four other students and entered the Theological Seminary of the Lutheran Iowa Synod at Mendota, Illinois, being there placed under the care of the well known Drs. Siegmund and Gottfried Fritschel. In July, 1881, he became an assistant of the Rev. George Landgrebe at Toeterville, Mitchell county, Iowa. On the 6th of November of the same year he received his first call from the Lutheran congregation at Myrtle, Minnesota, and on the 14th of December, 1883, he accepted a call from the Lutheran St. John congregation of Vilmar, Butler county, Iowa, where he has remained as pastor throughout the intervening thirty years. He has ever labored with consecrated zeal and his efforts have been a potent element in the moral development of the community. The new church at Allison which was recently completed by him also receives his services as pastor.

On the 8th of September, 1886, Rev. Weltner was united in marriage to Miss Dorothea Lehmann, a daughter of Fred and Auguste (Schwitzke) Lehmann, of Watertown, Wisconsin. They



**REV. CONRAD WELTNER**



have six children, as follows: Lillie, who was born on the 23d of January, 1890, and baptized on the 2d of February; Carl, born September 27, 1891, who was baptized on the 11th of October; William, who was born December 17, 1892, and baptized December 30th; Kurt, who was born on the 19th of October, 1894, and baptized November 4th; Paul, born January 15, 1898, who was baptized on the 6th of February; and Emma, whose birth occurred December 5, 1900, and who was baptized on January 1st of the following year.

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### WILLIAM FOLKERS.

William Folkers is busily engaged in general farming on the old family homestead on section 14, West Point township, to which place his parents removed when he was but two weeks old. He was born in Freeport, Illinois, March 11, 1876, a son of William and Halka (Jensen) Folkers, who were natives of Hanover, Germany, the former born October 12, 1833, and the latter January 18, 1838. They were married in 1864 and in 1867 became residents of Freeport, Illinois, where they resided for nine years. On the expiration of that period they removed westward to Butler county and for thirty-seven years have remained upon the farm which is now their home. The father has devoted his entire life to general agricultural pursuits. He arrived in the United States empty-handed, but he believed this to be the land of opportunity and resolved to win success, if it could be secured through indefatigable industry and honorable methods. As time passed on he kept adding to his possessions until he became the owner of six hundred and eighty acres in West Point township, but he has since disposed of all of this to his children, except the home place, comprising a quarter of section 14. He carried on general farming and stock-raising for many years but during the past fifteen years has lived retired, leaving the active work of the fields to others. He is a member of the German Lutheran church of Vilmar, to which his wife and children also belong, and earnest Christian principles have actuated him in all of his life record. His political support has ever been given to the democratic party. To Mr. and Mrs. Folkers have been born eight children: Folkert, who is living in West Point township; Bertha, the wife of F. G. Brennecke of Sumner; Frank, a veterinarian, practicing his pro-



fession in Allison; Katie, the wife of Henry Maas, of Coldwater township; Hikko, of West Point township; William, of this review; Helen, the wife of Herman Ladage, of Plainfield, Iowa; and Agnes, who is with her parents.

William Folkers was brought to the farm upon which he now resides when two weeks old and has since lived here, although he and his family now occupy a home separate from his parents. He was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. Fifteen years ago he took charge of the old homestead and has since relieved his father of all care and responsibility in connection with its cultivation. He now owns eighty acres north of Allison, adjoining the corporate limits, which he rents. He is capable and energetic in his business affairs and is justly accounted one of the leading farmers of his community.

In August, 1898, Mr. Folkers was united in marriage to Miss Lena Schroder, who was born in Illinois, June 30, 1876, and in her childhood days was brought to Butler county by her parents, John and Dora (Bane) Schroder, natives of Germany. Her father died here, but her mother is now a resident of Allison. Mr. and Mrs. Folkers have two children, Flossie and John. The parents are members of the Lutheran church, taking an active and helpful interest in its work. Mr. Folkers gives his political allegiance to the democratic party but has no desire for public office. He feels that all of his time should be given to his business affairs, and he is an energetic man, persistent and reliable, who well deserves classification with the representative agriculturists of the county in which he has spent practically his entire life.

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#### HENRY DE GROOTE, SR.

Henry De Groote, Sr., a well known farmer of Albion township, was born in Germany, October 8, 1857. He is a son of John and Trena (Harmes) De Groote, also natives of the fatherland, the former born in 1833 and the latter in 1824. The parents came to Iowa in 1884, and the father worked as a farm laborer in this state until his death, which occurred January 12, 1912. His wife has also passed away, dying March 31, 1891.

Henry De Groote, Sr., is one of a family of three children. He acquired his education in the public schools of Germany, attending until he was fourteen years of age, after which he worked upon a farm in his native land until 1882. In that year he crossed the Atlantic to America and settled in Grundy county, Iowa, whence after eight years he came to Butler county, where he has since resided. In 1902 he bought two hundred and seventy-eight acres of land on sections 24 and 25, Albion township, and upon this property raises small grain and hay and is also extensively interested in dairying and stock-raising, keeping one hundred hogs, sixty head of cattle and twenty horses.

In Germany, on the 27th of November, 1880, our subject married Miss Antje Jacobs. They became the parents of ten children. Henry, Jr., is a farmer in Albion township. He married Lezzie Van Hauen, and they had four children. Trena has passed away. Joe lives at home. Anna married William Hassman, a farmer in Albion township, and they have three children. Jacob has passed away. The other members of this family are, Jacob, the second of the name, Harry, Thomas, Andrew and Greta.

Mr. De Groote, Sr., is a member of the Reformed church and a republican in his political beliefs. He is one of the most highly respected citizens of Albion township, where he has resided for many years and where he holds the esteem and confidence of all who are associated with him.

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### JOHN KALKWARF.

John Kalkwarf, a progressive and able agriculturist of Butler county, owning and operating one hundred and fifty acres on section 1, Monroe township, was born in Germany on the 28th of September, 1855. He is a son of Henry and Flora (Sanders) Kalkwarf, also natives of that country, the former born in 1815 and the latter in 1824. The father, who was a linen weaver by trade, died in 1896, having survived his wife six years. They were the parents of seven children, Gertrude, Trena, Rena, John, Reint, Flora, and Fannie.

John Kalkwarf attended school in Germany until he was fourteen years of age and afterward worked on a farm in that country until 1883. He then came to America, settling in Grundy county, Iowa, where he engaged as a farm laborer for six years.

In 1890 he came to Butler county and after renting land for four years bought one hundred and fifty acres on section 1, Monroe township. He has operated this property since that time and has been very successful, his general farming and stock-raising interests being today extensive and important. Mr. Kalkwarf raises hay, corn and oats, all of which he feeds to his stock, keeping on an average thirty head of cattle, forty hogs and nine horses. His animals are sold in the local market, where they command a high price and a ready sale.

On the 1st of February, 1889, in Grundy county, Mr. Kalkwarf married Miss Fraukelena Kliege, a daughter of Ernest and Foske (De Vries) Kliege, the former a well known farmer of that locality. Mrs. Kalkwarf died in 1909, when she was about forty years of age, leaving nine children, Lena, Florence, Henry, John, Gertie, Dena, Ernest, Elsen and Fred. Lena married Cornelius Jurgens, who is engaged in farming in Ripley township.

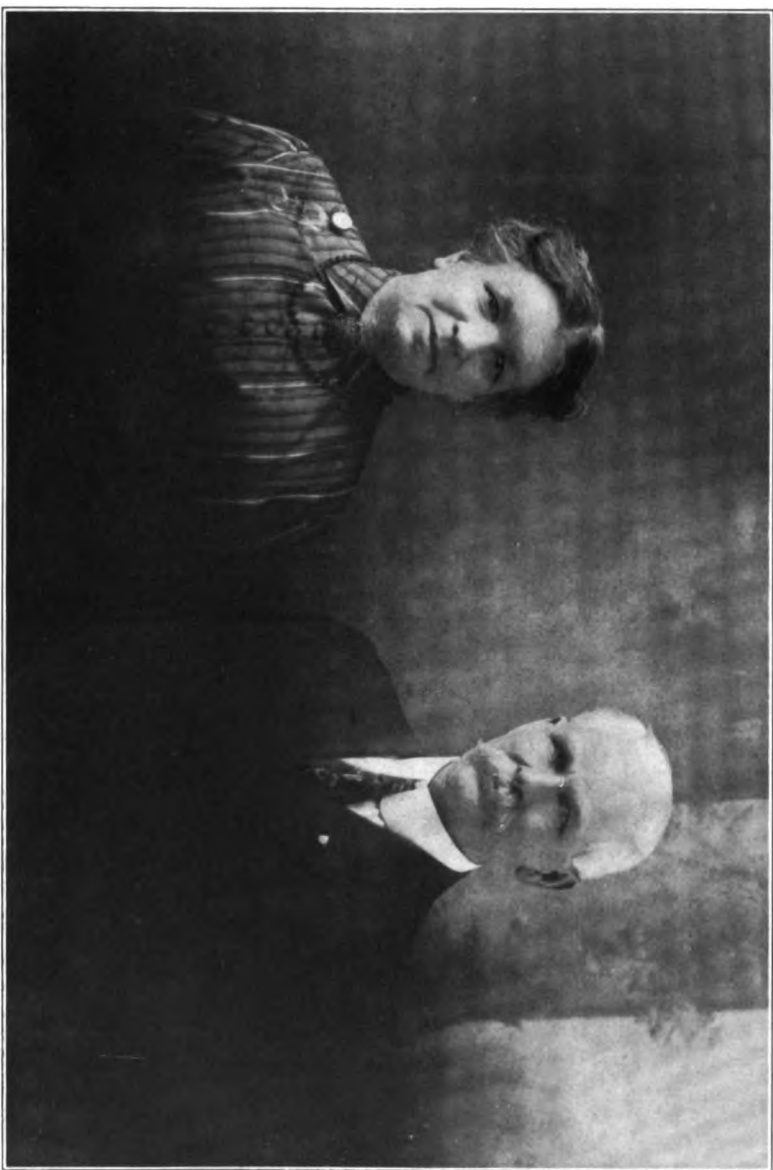
Mr. Kalkwarf attends the German Reformed church and is a republican in his political beliefs. For six years he was a member of the school board, and he is at all times interested in community affairs, cooperating heartily in all measures and projects for general advancement and growth. He has an enviable reputation in Butler county, holding the esteem and confidence of an extensive circle of friends.

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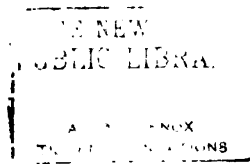
### FRANK S. KILSON.

The Tall Pine Stock Farm, situated on section 29, West Point township, is the property of Frank S. Kilson. It bears an appropriate name because of the fine pine trees upon the place, which were set out by Lewis Kilson, father of our subject. Here the son is conducting a profitable business as a stock-raiser, making a specialty of black polled cattle, his herd at the present time numbering ninety head. He has come to be recognized as an authority upon stock-raising in this part of the state and his success proclaims his judgment to be sound and his methods enterprising.

Frank S. Kilson was born in McHenry county, Illinois, June 28, 1854, and is a son of Lewis and Carry (Nelson) Kilson, both natives of Norway, born on the 28th of November, 1807, and in



MR. AND MRS. FRANK KILSON



June, 1822, respectively. Both came to the United States about 1831 and after spending a winter in Cincinnati, Ohio, Lewis Kilson removed to Illinois. The mother of our subject on crossing the Atlantic went to Dane county, Wisconsin, and there became the wife of Iver Nelson. There were several children by that marriage but the husband and the children all passed away in Wisconsin. Following the death of her first husband Mrs. Nelson became the wife of Lewis Kilson. He, too, had been married before when in Illinois and there were three children by that union. These were: Anna, now the deceased wife of Silas F. Woodworth; Albert M., of Garden City, Kansas, who is a pioneer of that state and has served in the Kansas legislature; and Martha A., the deceased wife of John Wilks, who has been a member of the senate of South Dakota. Following the marriage of the parents of our subject they established their home in Illinois, but in October, 1855, came to Butler county, Iowa, removing from Woodstock, Illinois, and taking up their abode upon what is now the old Kilson homestead. In June, 1855, Mr. Kilson had visited this section of the state and had secured a government claim. In fact, he had entered three eighty-acre tracts and he purchased other land until he was the owner of a half section. This he greatly improved, converting it into productive fields, and upon the farm he spent his remaining days, his life's labors being terminated in 1889. For eight years he had survived his wife, who died in 1881. In early life he was a mechanic, but throughout all his later years he followed farming. However, his labors ever displayed mechanical ingenuity and in the early days he made cutlery, after which he would go out and sell the knives. He also made candlesticks in Illinois before removing to this state and he was very ingenious in producing these different mechanical devices. He became a very well informed man, possessed ever a receptive mind and a retentive memory. After coming to the new world he adopted the customs of the country in every respect, even dropping the language of his native land and becoming thoroughly American. He never lost his love for his native land, but he had the strongest attachment for his adopted country and there could be found no native son whose loyalty was greater. In politics Lewis Kilson was a staunch republican and he always kept well informed on the questions and issues of the day. His religious faith was that of the Presbyterian denomination and he assisted in the building of a number of churches. In a word, he was a good citizen, ever deeply interested in the material, intellectual, political, social and moral progress of

the county. He won a fair measure of success for his day and he lived to see the district in which he located become the habitation of a prosperous and contented people. When he arrived here Dubuque was the nearest railroad point and later a line was built to Cedar Falls, and it was not until after the war that Butler county had a railroad. From pioneer times to the present the name of Kilson has figured prominently in connection with the history of the county, its bearers taking active part in the work of upbuilding and development.

Frank S. Kilson is the eldest of six children, the others being: George E., who for the past thirty years has lived in California, spending twenty-seven years of this time as station agent at Saticoy; Alice, the wife of J. T. Thompson, of Norfolk, Nebraska, whose father, Charles Thompson, established the Iowa Central Stock Farm of Butler county; Charles Grant, living two and a half miles southeast of Allison; Walter L., who was born in 1866 and died in 1905; and Oscar, who died at the age of three years. A half-brother, Albert M., enlisted from Butler county in 1864, in the Second Iowa Cavalry, and served until the close of the war, while his son Charles was in the Spanish-American war, was shot in the Philippines and now resides in Scott City, Kansas.

Frank S. Kilson, numbered among the honored pioneer residents of the county, has here resided since the fall of 1855, arriving when a babe of little more than a year. He has always carried on farming, starting out in business life on his own account at the time of his marriage, and after his father's death he purchased the interests of the other heirs in the home place and is now the owner of two hundred and forty acres of rich and arable land on section 29, West Point township. It is an attractive place, constituting one of the pleasing features in the landscape, and most of the improvements upon the farm are tangible evidences of the thrift and enterprising spirit of the owner. The soil is very fertile and he raises large crops, which he cultivates according to the most modern methods. He also keeps good stock and is well known as a dealer in cattle, making a specialty of black polled cattle, of which he now has ninety head. Many of these are full-blooded animals, which he raises for beef.

In 1883 Mr. Kilson was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Knight, who was born in Wisconsin in 1860 and came to Butler county with her parents, Henry and Sarah (Dye) Knight, who were natives of England and spent their last days in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Kilson have two children: Carrie, the wife of Rob-

ert A. McKernan, of West Point township; and Lanta Dale, at home.

Mr. Kilson, whose worth as a citizen is widely recognized, has served his township as clerk for twenty years and has held a number of road and school offices. He always votes with the republican party. His religious belief is indicated in his membership in the Christian church at Bristow. Fraternally he is well known, belonging to Vulcan Lodge, No. 498, A. F. & A. M., the Royal Arch chapter at Clarksville and Garfield Lodge, I. O. O. F., at Bristow. The Kilsons are one of the old families of the county and Kilson Creek was named in honor of Lewis Kilson. From pioneer times to the present representatives of the family have been numbered with the valued, leading and representative citizens of this part of the state, at all times taking active and helpful interest in everything pertaining to the general welfare.

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### C. I. BOLTON.

C. I. Bolton, a pioneer settler of Butler county and today one of the prominent and substantial farmers of Beaver township, was born in Cedar county, this state, July 12, 1856, a son of John Henry and Mary Bolton, natives of West Virginia, the former born in 1819 and the latter in 1830. The father died in 1897 at the age of seventy-eight and is survived by his wife, who makes her home in New Hartford. Twelve children were born to their union: John; James L.; Anna E.; Mary J.; Sarah; C. I., of this review; William L.; Oscar J.; Minnie C.; Charles H.; Louis; and Martha.

C. I. Bolton acquired his education in the district schools of this county, attending until he was nineteen years of age. He then turned his attention to farming and has been identified with agricultural pursuits since that time. He came to Butler county about the year 1867 and when he began his active career purchased the property on section 5, Beaver township, upon which he has since resided. The years have brought him success, prominence and substantial fortune so that he is today numbered among the men of worth and ability in his community.

Mr. Bolton has been twice married. In 1880 he wedded Miss Flora H. Whipple, who died in 1885, leaving four children as follows: Myrtle, Mabel, Ida and Edna E. In 1886, Mr. Bolton



married Miss Edna E. Dorens, and they have become the parents of four children: Cecil, Jane, C. I., Jr., and Mary.

Mr. Bolton is independent in his political beliefs and interested in public affairs, although not active as an office seeker. He has been a resident of Butler county for forty-six years and during the greater part of that time has been connected with agricultural interests. He has gained a gratifying degree of success in the conduct of his personal affairs and has also contributed materially to the general growth.

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### JOHN A. ZIMMERMAN.

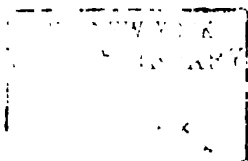
John A. Zimmerman, one of the active and progressive farmers and stock-raisers of Bennezette township, owning and operating three hundred and sixty-five acres of well improved and valuable land, was born in Johnson county, Iowa, August 9, 1862. His father, Christopher Zimmerman, was born in Switzerland, the land of the Alps, in 1813 and was reared in his native country. He later went to England, whence after five years he crossed the Atlantic to America. He located first in Virginia and from that state enlisted for service in the Mexican war. After his discharge he came to Iowa and located in Johnson county, where he married Miss Catherine Boller, born near the river Rhine in Germany. In 1854 Christopher Zimmerman purchased land in Linn county, buying three hundred and twenty acres, which he improved and cultivated for some time. He afterward sold this tract and returned to Johnson county, buying forty acres, to which he added from time to time until he was finally the proprietor of a farm of two hundred acres. He remained a resident of that locality for many years thereafter, dying upon his property June, 1893, when he was eighty years of age.

John A. Zimmerman was reared in Johnson county and acquired his education in the schools of Iowa City. He later learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for three years, after which he spent a similar period of time as a butter maker. He remained in Iowa City until 1894 and then moved to Butler county, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land in Bennezette township. Upon this he built a small shanty, in which he lived while he carried on the work of opening up and improving his farm. From time to time he bought more land and has now exten-



JOHN A. ZIMMERMAN

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sive holdings, owning three hundred and sixty-five acres. Upon this he has just completed the erection of a two story hollow-tile, rough cast finish residence, one of the finest and most modern in the county. He has a good barn, granary and hog house and other substantial buildings and the entire place is well improved in every particular. The fields are fenced and crossfenced and Mr. Zimmerman has also provided a grove and orchard. In addition to general farming he is a stock breeder and dealer on an extensive scale, raising pure-blooded Aberdeen Angus cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs and Percheron horses. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company at Aredale and was a promoter of the Bennezette Farmers Telephone Company.

On the 19th of March, 1890, Mr. Zimmerman married Miss Julia A. Parsons, and they have become the parents of seven children, Charles W., Minnie Etta, Fred, Kate, Wilbur, Nellie and Wanda. Mr. Zimmerman is a member of the blue lodge Masons and has passed through all the chairs of Zion Lodge, No. 32, I. O. O. F., of which he is past grand. He is a progressive republican but has never taken more than a citizen's interest in politics. He is interested in the cause of education and for a number of years past has been identified with school work as a director. He is one of the best known citizens of Bennezette township and his contributions to its general growth and development have been many and substantial.

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### JAMES E. MILLER.

James E. Miller needs no introduction to the readers of this volume, because of his long and close connection with the business and social interests of Butler county. For over thirty years he was closely and prominently identified with commercial activity in Greene, but he now makes his home in Mason City, Iowa, where he is the correspondent and representative of Lamson Brothers & Company of Chicago. Mr. Miller is a member of the Chicago Board of Trade, clearing his business through Lamson Brothers & Company of Chicago. During all the years of his residence in Greene his activities touched closely the business and public interests of his community, and he was regarded as one of the prominent, influential and valued citizens. Iowa, too, numbers him among her pioneer residents, for he has lived in this

state since 1856. He was born in Carroll county, Indiana, January 7, 1853, and is a son of A. and Anna (Harter) Miller, the former a native of Ohio, in which state he was reared to manhood. He afterward removed to Indiana, settling in Carroll county, where he engaged in farming for several years. In 1856 he started overland with team and wagons and took up his abode in Roundgrove, Floyd county, Iowa, just north of Greene. There he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land within two and a half miles of the town and at once began to break the sod, fence and improve the fields and do all the other work necessary to opening up and cultivating a new farm. For several years thereafter he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits, but in 1873 he sold his homestead and removed to Vernon county, Missouri, where he purchased four hundred acres of land. For nineteen years thereafter he cultivated this property, becoming **prominent** and influential in agricultural circles. He died upon his farm in 1892, having for three years survived his wife, who passed away in 1889.

James E. Miller was three years of age when he was brought by his parents to Iowa. He was reared on his father's farm in Floyd county and from early youth assisted in its operation, remaining at home until twenty-four years of age. He then purchased land in the same locality, which he cultivated for five years, and then traded for one hundred and twenty-five head of cattle, which he fattened and shipped to Chicago, realizing an excellent profit upon his stock.

During the time Mr. Miller owned his farm he engaged also in the hotel business in Greene, conducting a popular hostelry there for three years. He afterward established a grocery and general merchandise store there, and when he disposed of this engaged in the grain business. He erected a large elevator and for twenty-one years thereafter operated the elevator and continued in the grain trade, which he conducted upon an extensive scale. In 1912 he disposed of his interests at Greene, but in the meantime, in 1900, had established an elevator at Independence and in 1901 a similar enterprise at Packard. He still owns these elevators but maintains his residence in Mason City, Iowa, where he is now the correspondent and representative of Lamson Brothers & Company of Chicago.

In Roundgrove, Iowa, in 1877, Mr. Miller married Miss Mary Martin, and they became the parents of four children. The eldest, John W., is engaged in railroading in Glenwood, Minnesota,

W. F. is in the grain business at Packard. Anna Mabel married Harry Putnam, a rancher in Lordsburg, California. The youngest child, Gladys, is a student in the Greene high school. Mrs. Miller passed away in April, 1911. In September, 1912, Mr. Miller was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Sophronia Knox, of Greene, Iowa.

Mr. Miller is affiliated with the republican party and has held various offices of public trust and responsibility. He served for two terms on the town board, was for seven years town marshal and was for five years deputy sheriff during the same time. In addition to this he has served as delegate to numerous county conventions. He is well known in fraternal circles, holding membership in the Masonic blue lodge at Greene and in the Eastern Star, to which his wife also belonged. In 1875 he joined the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, an organization which at that time had five degrees instead of three. Mr. Miller is past grand of the subordinate lodge and is also a charter member of the Knights of Pythias. He and his wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Miller has been steward for years. He was formerly numbered among the most prominent and public-spirited citizens of Greene and this position he gained through many years of upright living and straightforward dealing, but in August, 1913, he removed to Mason City, where he and his wife now make their home, Mr. Miller's business project being a large and important one.

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### HENRY FREY.

Henry Frey, a farmer of Washington township, owning two hundred acres of excellent land, was born in Germany, January 30, 1871. He acquired his education in the public schools of Germany and Illinois, having been but eleven years of age when his parents came to America. He stayed with his parents and helped in the farm work, continuing thus until he was twenty-one, when he entered the College of Commerce in Freeport, Illinois. Upon the completion of his course he engaged in teaching, following this occupation for three years. In 1893 he and his brother Harm purchased a threshing outfit and after they had operated this for seven years Mr. Frey of this review rented land. In 1898 he bought eighty acres in Butler county and to this he

has added from time to time until he now owns two hundred acres. He raises hay, corn and oats and is also interested in stock breeding, keeping twenty-five head of cattle, sixty hogs and eight horses.

In Washington township, on the 1st of April, 1895, Mr. Frey was united in marriage to Miss Gertie Van Loh, a daughter of George Van Loh, a farmer, who passed away at the age of twenty-four years. Mr. Frey is independent in his political views and has served as township trustee and president of the school board. He is numbered among the representative citizens, devotes considerable of his time to gospel ministry and kindred work and has the esteem and confidence of an extensive circle of friends.

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### EDWIN L. NORTON.

For almost sixty years Edwin L. Norton has been a resident of Butler county and is one of its extensive landowners. His home place, known as the Oak Ridge Stock Farm, is located at Nortons Corners on section 32, Shell Rock township, and there he engages in raising high-grade stock, including horses, cattle and hogs. He has now traveled life's journey for seventy-five years and as one of the pioneer settlers of this locality, his memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present.

A native of Ohio, he was born in Cuyahoga county, on the 15th of August, 1838, and is a son of Lyman and Hannah (Gates) Norton, who were also natives of the Buckeye state. In 1842 they removed to De Kalb county, Illinois, and in the fall of 1854 the father arrived in Butler county, Iowa, settling in the district which became known as Nortons Corners in Shell Rock township. There he resided until 1862, when he went to Missouri, but after a short time returned to De Kalb county, Illinois, where his last days were spent, reaching the venerable age of eighty-four years. The mother also died in De Kalb county, but before the family removed to Iowa. The father afterward married again and his second wife died in De Kalb county. Lyman Norton was a farmer and also worked at the carpenter's trade to some extent. In antebellum days he was a strong opponent of slavery and when the republican party was formed to prevent its further extension, he became one of its strong advocates.



EDWIN L. NORTON



1878

In the family were three daughters and four sons born of the first marriage: Ann, who became the wife of Frank Stevens and is now a widow living in Shabbona, Illinois; Melissa, who became the wife of John Smith and died in Oregon in 1910; Laura, who became the wife of Alby (Mose) Robinson and died in this county; Edwin L.; Byron and William, who enlisted in Missouri for service in the Civil war, the former being killed in battle, while the latter was mortally wounded in a conflict and died a few days after reaching home; and Le Roy, who has been superintendent of schools during the greater part of his life and now makes his home in Michigan. There were also seven children born of the father's second marriage.

Edwin L. Norton was a youth of about fourteen years at the time of his mother's death and in 1854, when sixteen years of age, he came with his father to Butler county, where he has since lived with the exception of a few months spent in Kansas. He has always followed farming and now owns about four hundred acres of rich and valuable land. His home is situated on section 32, Shell Rock township and he has two hundred and forty acres on sections 5 and 6, Beaver township. The two farms are only about a half mile apart. The purpose to which the home place is largely devoted has given to it the name of the Oak Ridge Stock Farm, for here Mr. Norton raises high-grade stock, including cattle, horses and hogs. His political support is given to the republican party and he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but does not seek nor desire office, having always preferred to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs which, capably managed, have brought to him success.

In 1861 Mr. Norton was married to Miss Mary M. Waters, who was born in Cortland county, New York, in 1844, her parents being Servetus and Mercy (Helm) Waters, natives of Connecticut and New York respectively. They removed to De Kalb county, Illinois, when Mrs. Norton was ten years of age and in 1858 came to this county, where both passed away when well advanced in years. The father died in 1892 in his ninetieth year and the mother when eighty-four years of age. They were the parents of seven children: Amos, who died in Oregon; Abner, who died in Denver, Colorado; Alzina, who became the wife of John Robins and died in this county; Elnora, who became the wife of Olen Stevens and both died in Illinois; Joseph, of Seattle, Washington; Julius, who was killed at the battle of Pleasant Hill while serving in the Civil war; and Mrs. Norton.

Four children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Norton: Florence became the wife of M. G. Parks and died at the age of twenty-two years, leaving a daughter, Blanche, who is now the wife of Milton Willey, of Shell Rock township, by whom she has three children: Margaret; and twins, born in December, 1913. Byron, the second member of the Norton family, resides upon and operates the home farm. He married Eva Church, who was born September 3, 1873, and died May 5, 1910. They became the parents of seven children: Earl, Madge, Lois, Ruth, Vera, and Harry and Howard, twins. Estella Norton, the third member of the family, became the wife of M. G. Parks of Albion township and they have three children: Leland, Edith and Harland. Maude, the fourth member of the family, is the wife of Clyde Bolton, living on her father's farm in Beaver township, and they have one son, Wayne.

No history of this county would be complete without mention of Edwin L. Norton, so long has he resided in this district. There were few white settlers living in Butler county at the time of his arrival and the Indians were still numerous in some sections. Land was largely unclaimed and uncultivated but the soil was naturally rich and productive and offered excellent opportunities to the farmer. Mr. Norton has lived to witness all the changes which have since occurred—changes wrought by time and man, and he can relate many interesting incidents concerning the history of the county from pioneer times to the present.

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### THOMAS H. McCARTY.

Thomas H. McCarty, engaged in general farming, dairying and stock-raising upon three hundred acres of excellent land on sections 11 and 12, Beaver township, was born in Ireland, June 14, 1858. He is a son of Thomas and Bridget (Deonje) McCarty, also natives of the Emerald isle, the former born in 1821. The parents came to America in 1855 and settled in Bremer county, where the father passed away. His wife afterward moved to Beaver township, this county, where her death occurred in 1898. She and her husband had eight children, of whom the subject of this review is the only one surviving.

Thomas H. McCarty acquired his education in the public schools of Beaver township, attending until he was fifteen years of age. He afterward worked upon the farm and in 1898, when

his mother died, inherited the homestead to which he has since added until he now owns three hundred acres. He raises all kinds of small grain, but gives special attention to dairying and stock-raising, keeping eighty head of cattle, mostly Durhams and one hundred hogs. He sells in the local markets and has made his stock-raising interests an important source of income to him.

Mr. McCarty is a stockholder in the Farmer's State Bank at Shell Rock and in the Union Creamery in Blackhawk county. He is independent in his political beliefs and served one term with credit and ability as school director. His religious views are in accord with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic church. His industry, integrity and enterprise are the qualities upon which he has founded his success and this places him today among the representative and valued citizens of the community.

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#### THOMAS P. WAUDBY, D. V. S.

Dr. Thomas P. Waudby is numbered among the foremost veterinary surgeons in Butler county and since 1873 has been in the active practice of his profession in Aplington. He was born in DeKalb county, Illinois, April 4, 1848, and is a son of Robert and Orrey T. (Norton) Waudby, the former born in England in 1815 and the latter born in 1825. The father moved to Illinois in 1843 and died in that state in 1893. His wife survived him until 1900. In their family were eight children: Frank, deceased; Thomas P.; William F., who has also passed away; Robert; Adelaide; Mary J., deceased; Lovisa, and Isabelle.

Thomas P. Waudby acquired his early education in the public schools of DeKalb county, Illinois. He enlisted for the Civil war as a member of Company A, Forty-sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, serving for one hundred days. After his discharge at Davenport, Iowa, he was thanked personally for his services by President Lincoln. He afterward reenlisted in the Sixth Iowa Cavalry and at the close of hostilities in 1865 was mustered out at Sioux City. After his return he entered the Iowa State Veterinary College at Dubuque and in 1873 began the practice of his profession at Aplington, where he has since resided. He has met with excellent success, for he understands his work in principle and detail and is conscientious and thorough in his treatment of a case.

At Monticello, Iowa, on the 18th of October, 1868, Mr. Waudby married Miss Lucy P. Hall, a daughter of Mortimer M. and Laney D. (Cassleman) Hall, both of whom have passed away. The father met death by drowning in 1861, when he was forty-nine years of age, and was survived by his wife until 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Waudby have become the parents of eleven children. The eldest, Orrey E., was born August 26, 1869. She married Frank H. Hill, a merchant in Allison, and they have two children, Luella R. and Francis M. Frank H. was born September 18, 1871, and is now a barber in Voorhies, Iowa. He married Mrs. Lorena Sparks. Harriett E., who was born January 1, 1874, has passed away. William R. was born on the 2d of March, 1876, and is now a resident of North Dakota. He married Miss Lizzie Strehlow and has two children, Irene and Wayland. Thomas R., who was born January 24, 1878, has passed away. Orren A. was born May 31, 1880, and is now engaged in farming in Minnesota. He married Miss Mary A. Bisbee and they have four children, Lucy A., Harriett I., Zola and Orren I. Charles E. was born July 20, 1882, and is now a minister at Hartwick, Iowa. He and his wife, who was in her maidenhood Miss Bertha De Boer, have one child, Clell. Innes was born September 27, 1884, and is engaged in the barber business. Lawrence G. was born July 10, 1886, and is now an electrician at Shelby, Iowa. He married Miss Mabel Brook and they have two children, Ruth and Lawrence. Harrison, who was born December 3, 1888, has passed away. Addie E. was born August 31, 1891, and lives at home.

Dr. Waudby is connected fraternally with John Braden Post, No. 242, G. A. R., of Parkersburg. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and served for six years as road superintendent, discharging his duties in a capable and conscientious manner. He has high standing in professional circles and is, moreover, entitled to a place in this volume as a veteran of the Civil war to whom the country owes a debt of gratitude that can never be fully paid.

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